猫絵十兵衛

御伽草紙

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

二

永尾まる
NAGAO MARU

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

ねこえじゅうべえ おとぎそうし

～御伽草紙～

二2

永尾まる

NAGAO MARU

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛
～御伽草紙～

二

2

CONTENTS

005····· CHAPTER 7 "MATCHMAKER CAT"

045····· CHAPTER 8 "GHOST STORY CAT"

083·····CHAPTER 9 "THE MOON VIEWING CAT"

117····· CHAPTER 10 "THE KING OF CATS"

149···· CHAPTER 11 "SHIJIMI CLAM CAT"

185···· CHAPTER 12 "LIGHT INDIGO CAT"

236····· OTHER STORIES

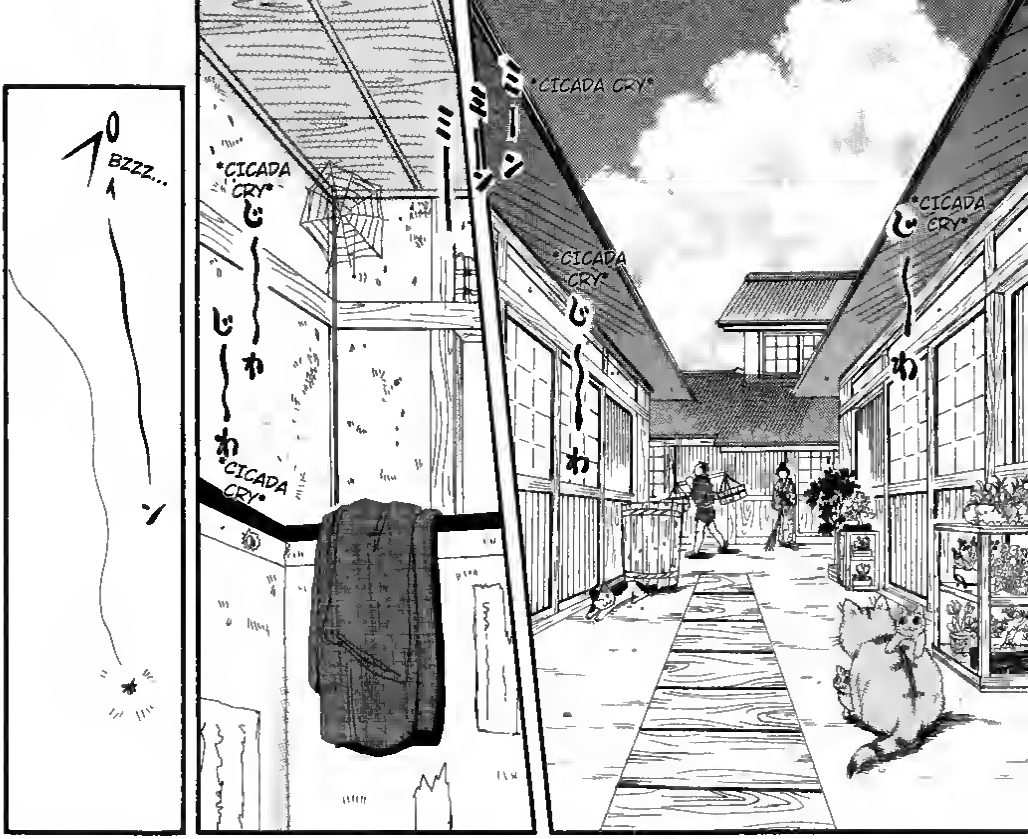
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

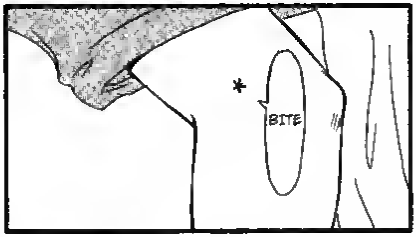
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

御伽草紙

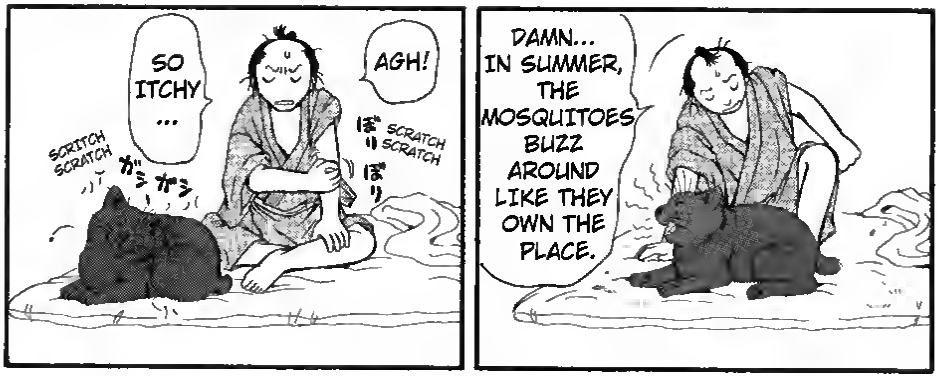
MATCHMAKER CAT
取持ち猫の巻
（とりもちねこ）


BZZZ...
CICADA CRY
ミーン
じーわ
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY

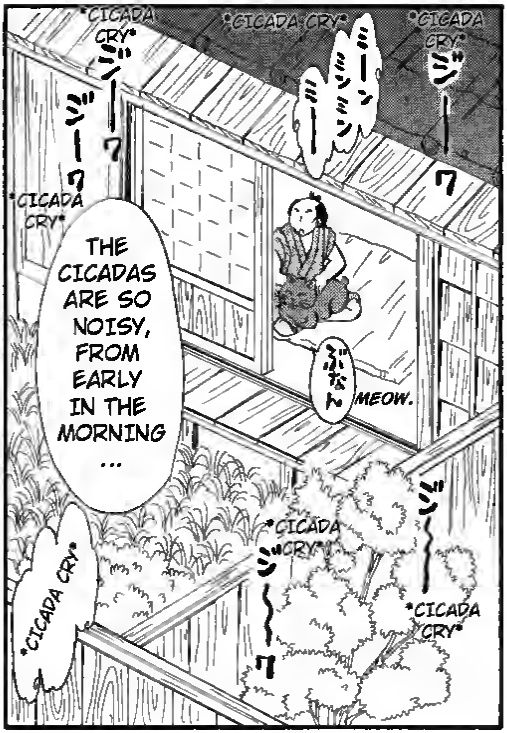
UUH ...
のびー
STRETCH

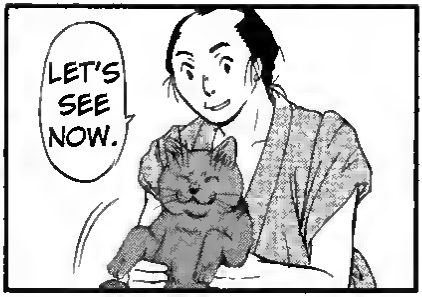

*
BITE

ぱ
ち
ん
SMACK!


SO ITCHY ...
SCRITCH SCRATCH
ガシ ガシ
AGH!
ぼり SCRATCH SCRATCH ぼり
DAMN... IN SUMMER, THE MOSQUITOES BUZZ AROUND LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE.

KURO?
HAVE YOU GOT FLEAS?
MEOW.


CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
THE CICADAS ARE SO NOISY, FROM EARLY IN THE MORNING ...
MEOW.


LET'S SEE NOW.

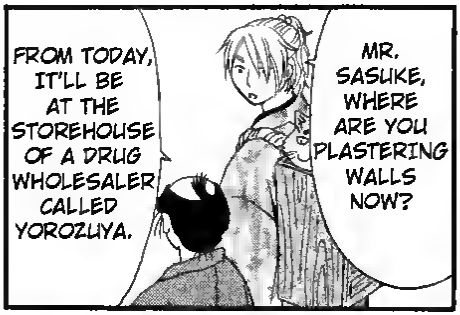
FLEAS, HMM? THEY'RE SMALL, BUT TOUGH.
YOU CAN'T KILL 'EM UNLESS YOU SQUISH 'EM BETWEEN YOUR NAILS.
SQUISH!
SQUISH!

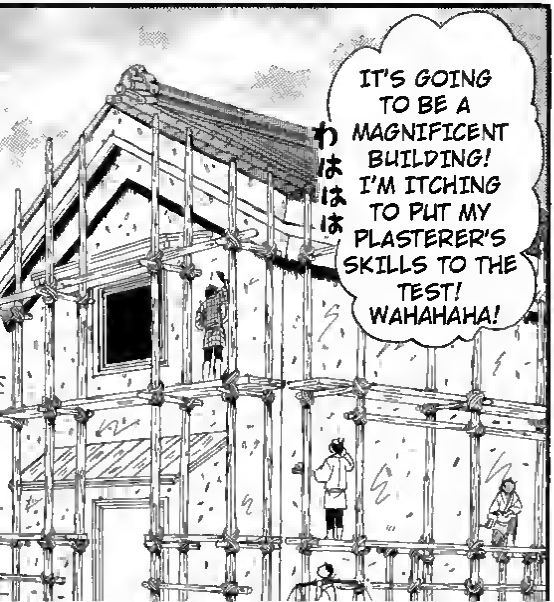
MR. JUBEI, MR. NISHIURA.
GOOD MORNING.
MORNIN' MR. SASUKE.

BYE, KURO.
I'LL BE BACK LATER.

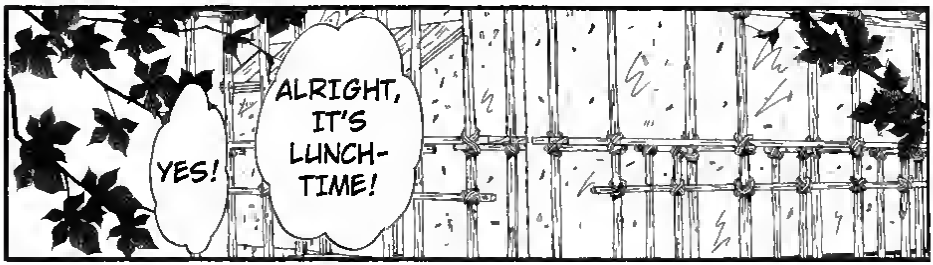
SO, YOU TWO ARE DEALING IN CAT PICTURES FOR DRIVING OFF MICE TOGETHER?
HA HA HA HA!
はははは
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I'M AN ASSISTANT AT AN ACQUAINTANCE'S DOJO.

WOW, AN ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR! THAT'S GREAT, MR. NISHIURA!
W...WELL, I'M TEACHING CHILDREN, THOUGH.
I'M LIKE A BABY-SITTER.


MR. SASUKE, WHERE ARE YOU PLASTERING WALLS NOW?
FROM TODAY, IT'LL BE AT THE STOREHOUSE OF A DRUG WHOLESALER CALLED YOROZUYA.

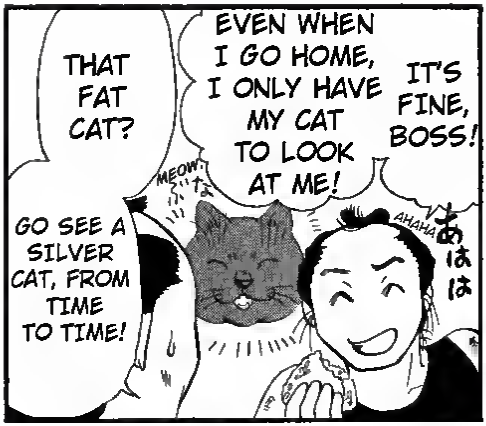

IT'S GOING TO BE A MAGNIFICENT BUILDING! I'M ITCHING TO PUT MY PLASTERER'S SKILLS TO THE TEST! WAHAHAHA!
わはは

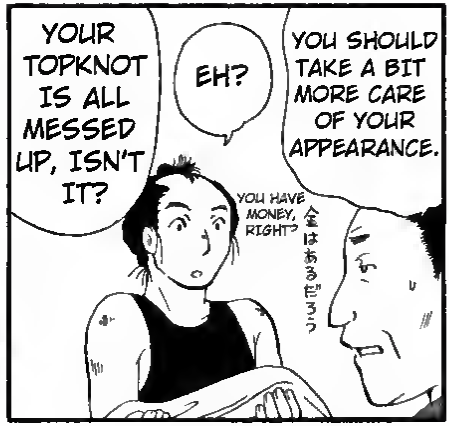
SHLUP
I'M POURING IN THE CHOPPED STRAW!
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
OK!


YES!
ALRIGHT, IT'S LUNCH-TIME!

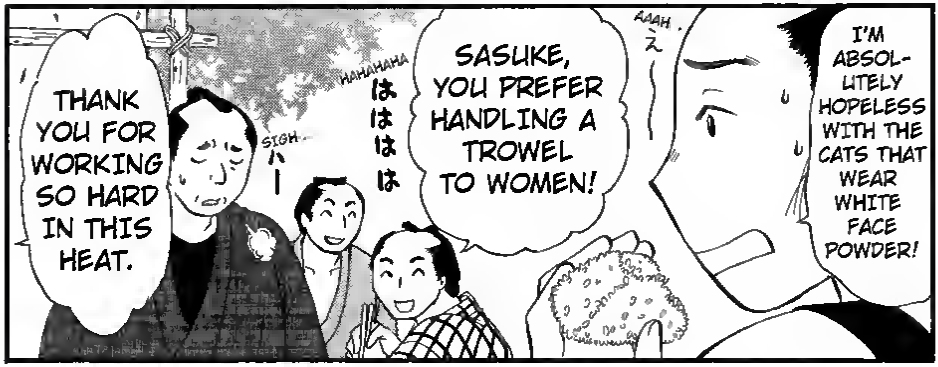
SASUKE
I CAN'T STAND IT!
PHEW! IT'S SO HOT!
WIPE

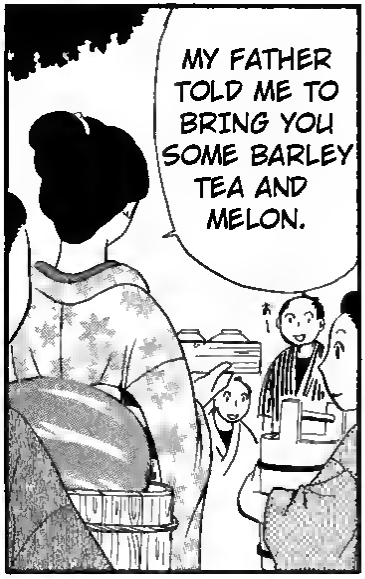
OK!
YOU GUYS MAKE SURE YOU DRINK PLENTY OF WATER!


THAT FAT CAT?
GO SEE A SILVER CAT, FROM TIME TO TIME!
MEOW
EVEN WHEN I GO HOME, I ONLY HAVE MY CAT TO LOOK AT ME!
IT'S FINE, BOSS!
AHAHA
あはは

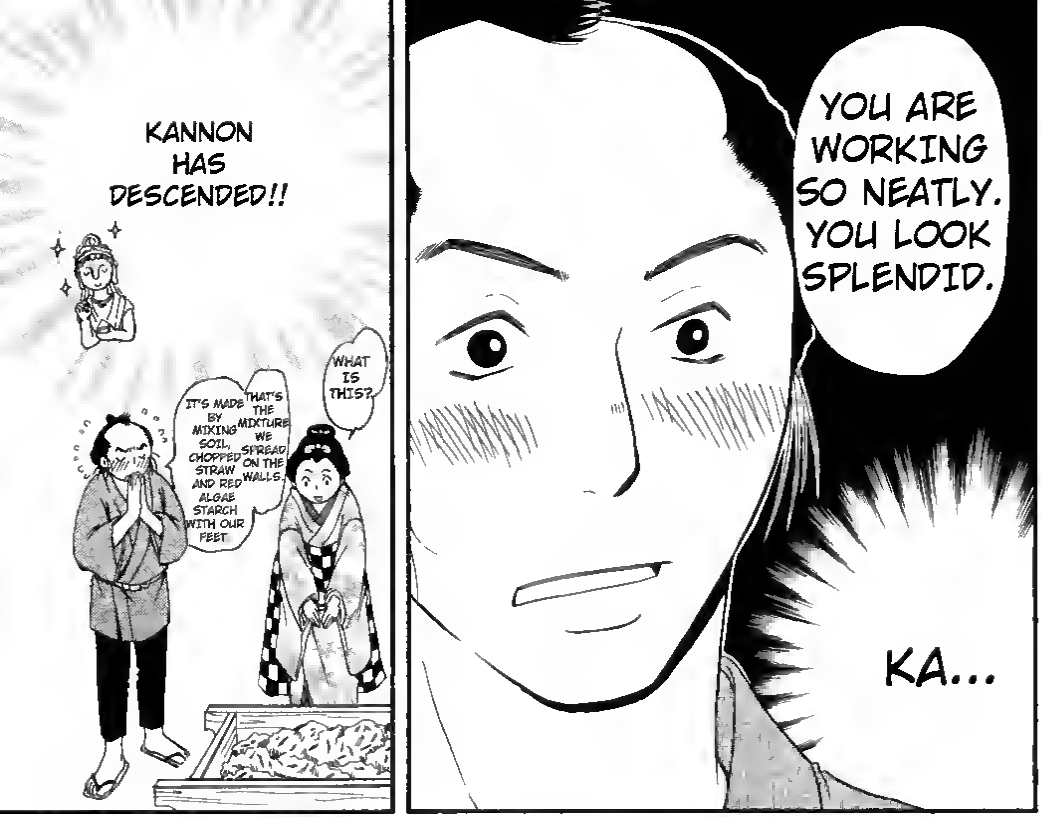


SILVER CAT = PROSTITUTES THAT COST 2 PIECES OF SILVER. GOLD CAT = 1 PIECE OF GOLD.

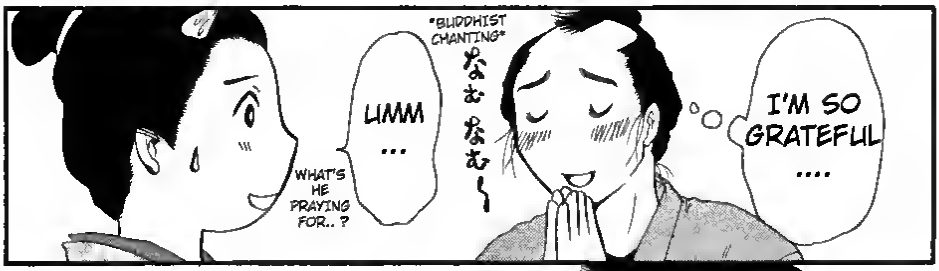

THANK YOU FOR WORKING SO HARD IN THIS HEAT.
SIGH
ハー
HAHAHAHA
ははは
SASUKE, YOU PREFER HANDLING A TROWEL TO WOMEN!
AAAH
I'M ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS WITH THE CATS THAT WEAR WHITE FACE POWDER!



PLEASE, EAT.
AH!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YOU DROPPED YOUR RICE-BALL.
DROP!
ボタッ
OH DEAR.
NOT AT ALL.
I LOOK SO SHABBY ...
ERRM... NICE TO MEET YOU.
GIGGLE!
BRUSH
ぱた
BRUSH

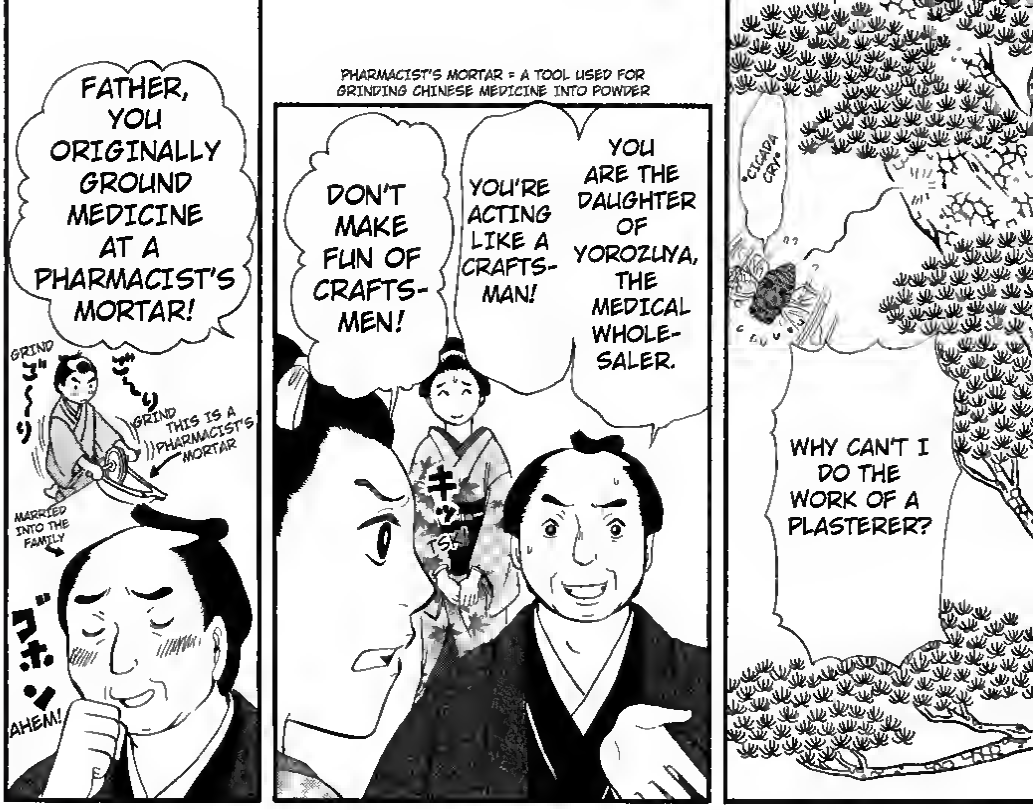

KANNON HAS DESCENDED!!
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S MADE BY MIXING SOIL, CHOPPED STRAW AND RED ALGAE STARCH WITH OUR FEET
THAT'S THE MIXTURE WE SPREAD ON THE WALLS.
YOU ARE WORKING SO NEATLY. YOU LOOK SPLENDID.
KA...

KANNON = THE BUDDHIST GODDESS OF MERCY



THERE'S NO WAY!
IS THERE NO WAY I CAN DO IT?
PLEASE STOP, MY LADY!
YOUR FEET!
WOOO-OAH!!
OK!
I WOULD LIKE TO KNEAD THE MIXTURE TOO.
HMM...
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO PLASTER.
AAAH...
ERM... THE WALLS OF THE STORE-HOUSE ...
ARE MADE BY DOING THE BEAMS, ROUGH WALLS, THEN THE FIRST, AND SECOND LAYERS, FILLING THE CRACKS AND THEN THE THIRD LAYER.
WOW, IT TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK, DOESN'T IT?

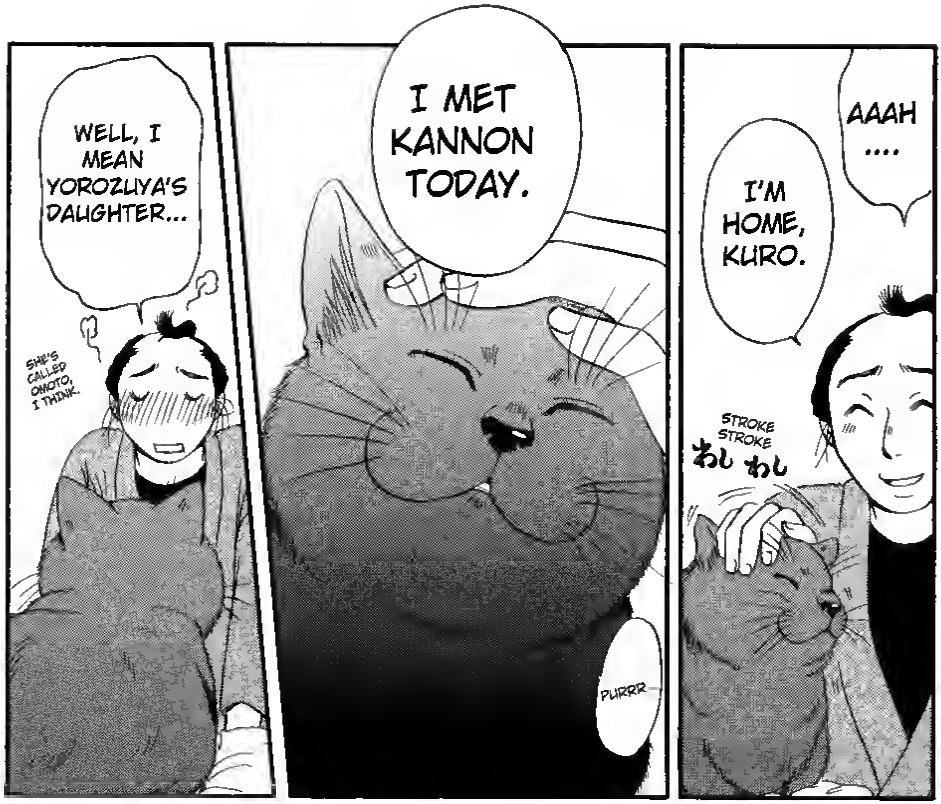
UH... YEAH.
I DID NOT KNOW THAT ...
THANKS TO THAT, IF THERE IS A FIRE, IT WILL NOT BE BURNED DOWN ...
WOAH, PLEASE STOP! YOU'LL GET DIRT ON YOUR KIMONO!
GRUNCH. ジャリ
SO, I PLASTER LIKE THIS?
ポタ SPLAT
SPLAT ポタ
HA HA HA はは は
I SEE.
LADY OMOTO HAS CURIOSITY IN ABUNDANCE!
...IS A LITTLE PECU-LIAR.
オホホホ
WHAT ARE THESE?
A TROWEL AND A MORTAR-BOARD.
THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF YOROZUYA ...
YOUR HANDS WILL GET DIRTY, MY LADY!
CICADA CRY ジーワ
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY ジーワ
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY ジーワ
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY ジーワ


FATHER, YOU ORIGINALLY GROUND MEDICINE AT A PHARMACIST'S MORTAR!
GRIND
GRIND
THIS IS A PHARMACIST'S MORTAR
MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY
AHEM!
PHARMACIST'S MORTAR = A TOOL USED FOR GRINDING CHINESE MEDICINE INTO POWDER
DON'T MAKE FUN OF CRAFTS-MEN!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A CRAFTS-MAN!
YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF YOROZUYA, THE MEDICAL WHOLE-SALER.
TSK
CICADA CRY
WHY CAN'T I DO THE WORK OF A PLASTERER?

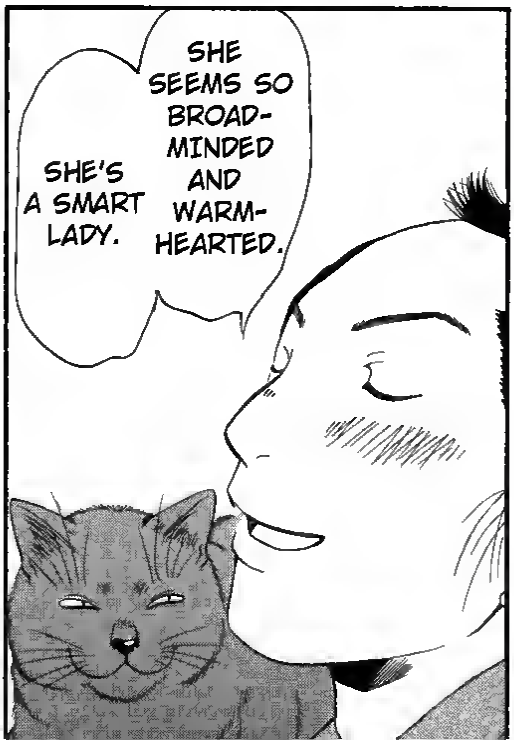
FOR GOOD-NESS' SAKE, OMOTO!
IF I DO THAT, SOMEDAY, I WILL OPEN MY OWN SHOP!
I WANT TO WORK USING MY HANDS AND FEET.
そのためには
何事も勉強です
FOR THAT I WILL STUDY ANYTHING

YOUR OTHER 3 DAUGHTERS HAVE ALL BEEN MARRIED OFF, AND OUR OLDER BROTHER CAN TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE STORE.
THIS IS A LARGE STORE TOO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE WIFE OF A CEREMONIOUS OWNER OF A LARGE STORE!
DARLING
FATHER
PLEASE, JUST GET MARRIED ...
HOO HOO
ALL THE OTHER GIRLS AROUND HERE ARE MARRIED
EXCUSE ME!
OMOTO
THIS IMMATURE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER SHALL DO AS SHE PLEASES!
YES, IT'S FINE
IS IT REALLY OK, MY LADY?

KANA KANA KANA = THE CRY OF THE "EVENING CICADA", THAT APPEARS IN LATE SUMMER.


AAAH ....
I'M HOME, KURO.
STROKE STROKE
わし わし
I MET KANNON TODAY.
PURRR
WELL, I MEAN YOROZUYA'S DAUGHTER...
SHE'S CALLED OMOTO, I THINK.

KANA
カナ
KANA
カナ
KANA
カナ

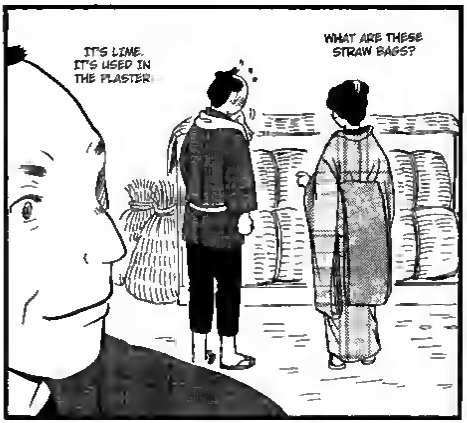

SHE SEEMS SO BROAD-MINDED AND WARM-HEARTED.
SHE'S A SMART LADY.

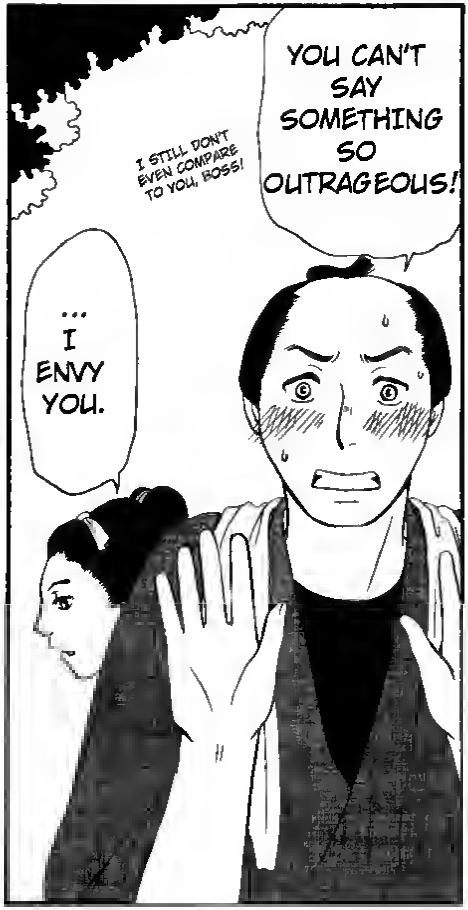
AH!
I CAN'T JUST HANG AROUND HERE!
I'M GOING TO THE PUBLIC BATH!
SMACK!
HMMM
HEY, SASUKE!
YOU REALLY SMARTENED YOURSELF UP!
SPARKLE!
HEH HEH HEH
WELL...
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!
SPARKLE
UH...? RIGHT.

AHAHAHAHAHA!
アハハハハ
SHUP!
WOW!
IT'S A CHUBBY CAT!
IT'S... IT'S MY CAT.
WHAT'S THAT?
MMM... IT'S WONDERFUL.
BUT THIS IS JUST PLASTERING ON THE SOIL.
WE PILE UP THE PLASTER TO DECORATE THE WALL.
AND... UH, THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED A TROWEL PICTURE.

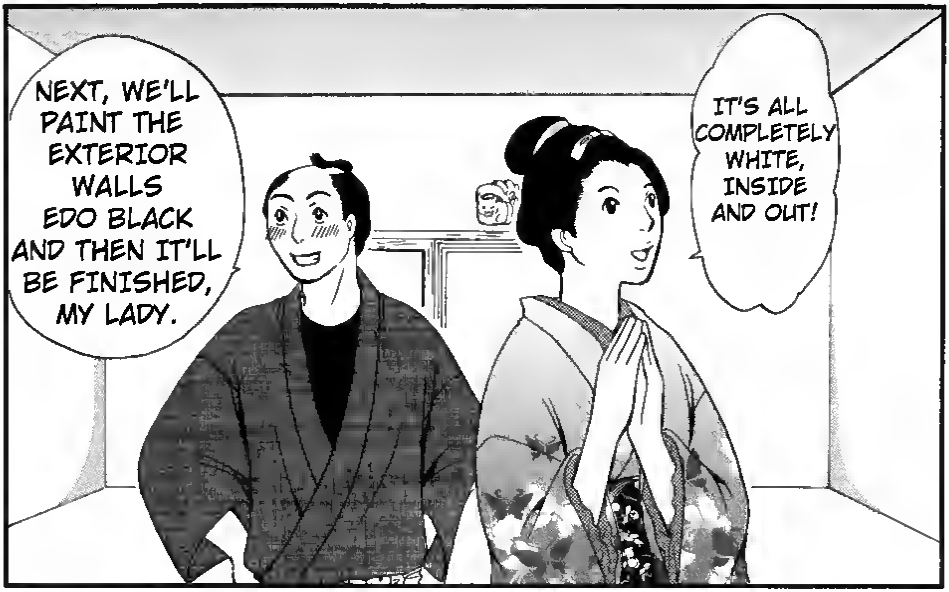
PLE... PLEASE CUT IT OUT, BOSS!
YOU'LL SOON SURPASS CHOUHACHI OF IZU!
YOU GUYS SHOULD LEARN FROM HIM
YEAH!
EVEN WHEN HE HAS FREE TIME, SASUKE LIKES TO TRAIN WITH HIS TROWEL!

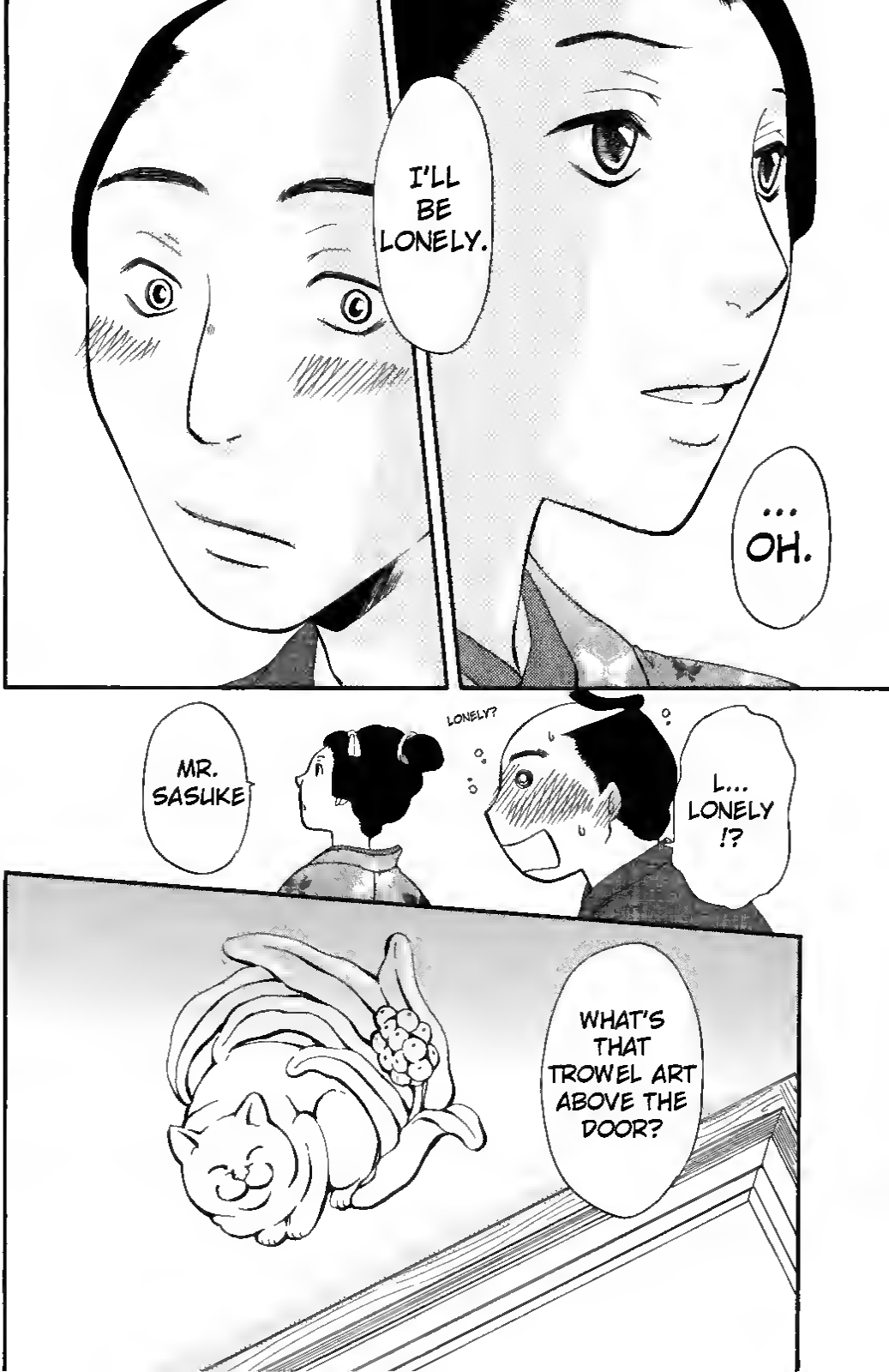
CHOUHACHI OF IZU = A FAMOUS TROWEL ARTIST

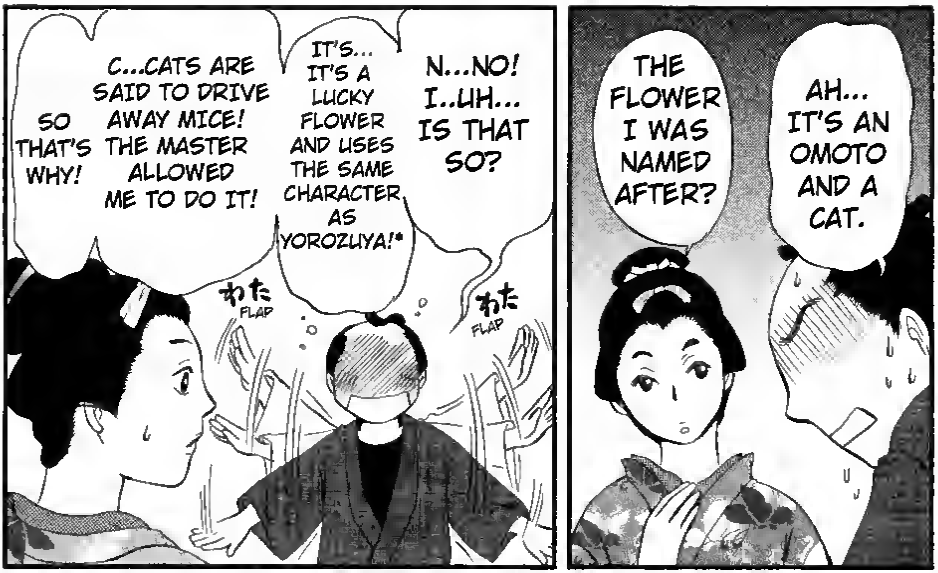




PHEW
HOW IS IT?
IT'S VERY GOOD!
IT'S GREAT, MY LADY!
OK!
PURR
PURR


NEXT, WE'LL PAINT THE EXTERIOR WALLS EDO BLACK AND THEN IT'LL BE FINISHED, MY LADY.
IT'S ALL COMPLETELY WHITE, INSIDE AND OUT!

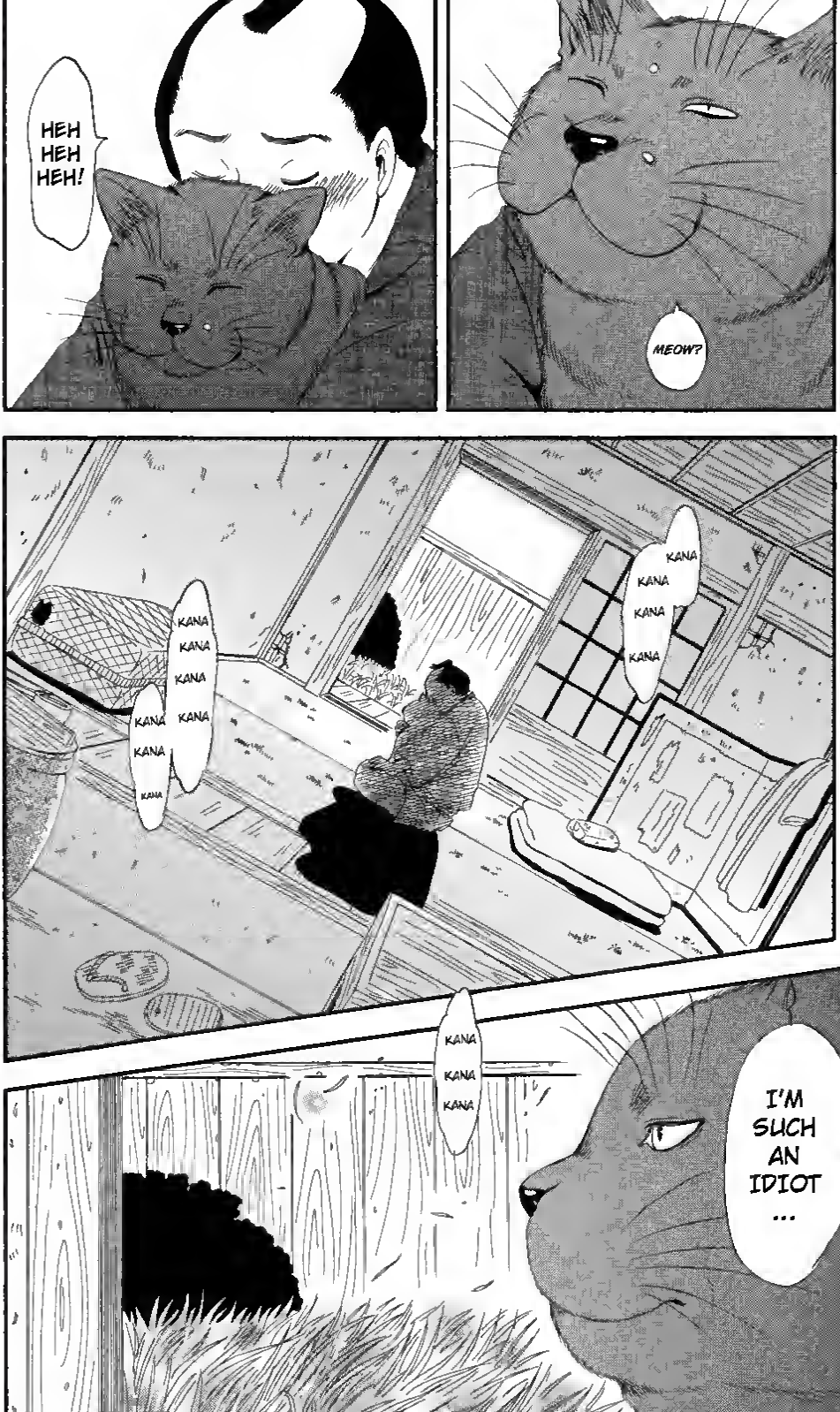

I'LL BE LONELY.
...OH.
MR. SASUKE
LONELY?
L...LONELY!?
WHAT'S THAT TROWEL ART ABOVE THE DOOR?


SO THAT'S WHY!
C...CATS ARE SAID TO DRIVE AWAY MICE! THE MASTER ALLOWED ME TO DO IT!
IT'S... IT'S A LUCKY FLOWER AND USES THE SAME CHARACTER AS YOROZUYA!*
N...NO! I..UH... IS THAT SO?
わた FLAP
わた FLAP
THE FLOWER I WAS NAMED AFTER?
AH... IT'S AN OMOTO AND A CAT.

OMOTO = NAME OF A FLOWER, WRITTEN 万年青 YOROZUYA IS WRITTEN 万屋 SO THE FIRST CHARACTER IS THE SAME

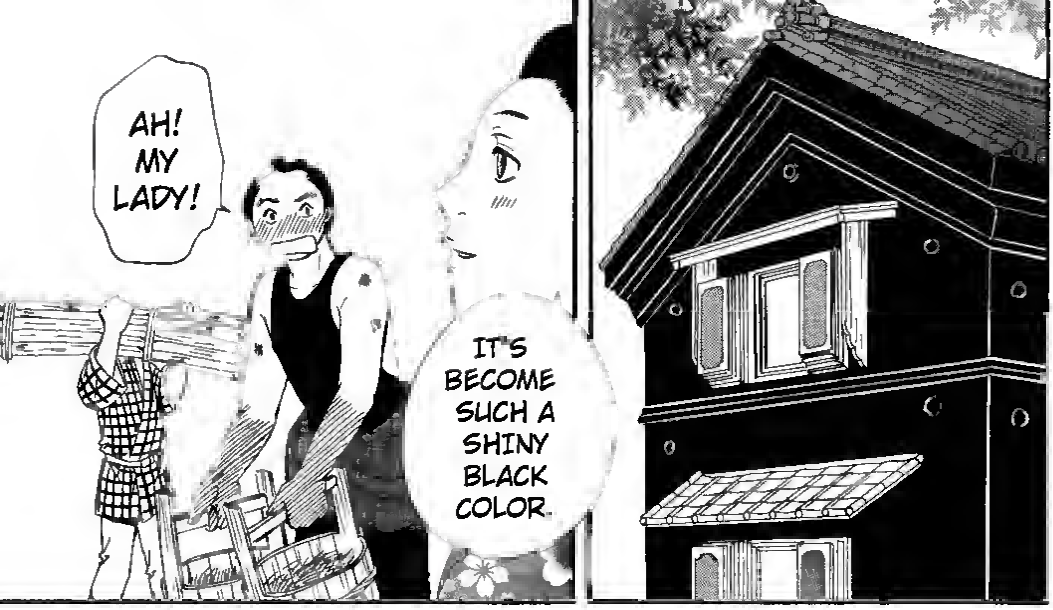
HEY! SASUKE! WHERE ARE YA GOIN'?
I'M SORRY!
SORRY!
WOOOSH!
OMOTO ...

MEOW.
KURO ...
よろっ
STAGGER
HMM ...
HUFF PUFF
I'M ...
AN IDIOT ...
ぎゅー
SQUEEZE!
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL STATUS ...
WHY DID I GET SO CARRIED AWAY?
HEH!
へら

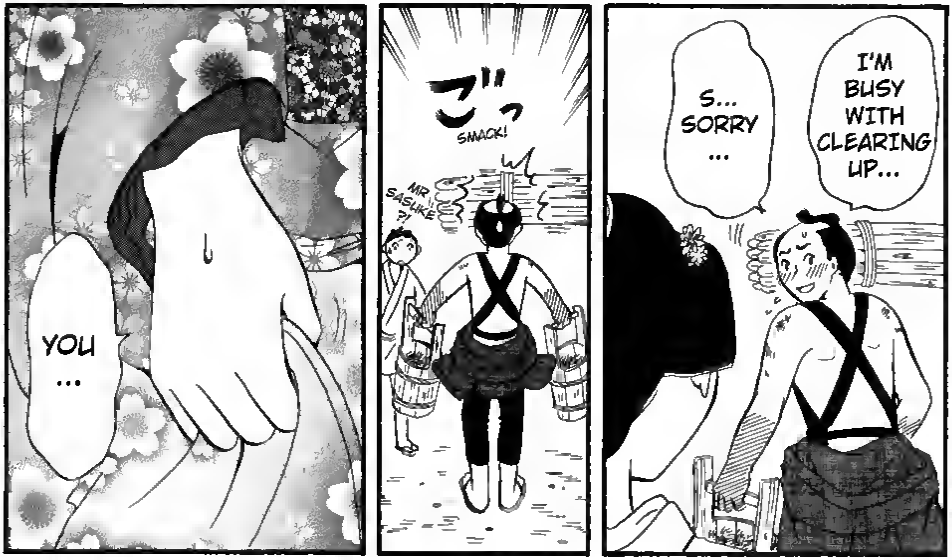

HEH HEH HEH!
MEOW?
KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA
KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA
KANA KANA KANA
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT ...

YAWN...
PLINK!
HMM!
THUD
ドス
WOBBLE
たぷ
WOBBLE
たぷ
THUD
ドス
THUNK!
CREAK!

SIGN:
CAT PICTURES
JUBEI
THE FLOATING WEEDS ARE UNEXPECTEDLY INVITED BY THE WATER
LOVE OR THE FLOATING WORLD
MEOW.
IS THAT YOU, KURO?
PLINK!
THE FLOATING WORLD OR LOVE
PLINK
ペペン♪
MEOW.
HEY, ALRIGHT. COME ON IN.



HOZUKI = CHINESE LANTERN



I'VE HAD IT!
YOU COWARD!
MY LADY ...
ゴロ RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ RUMBLE
ザァァァ SSSSHHHH..

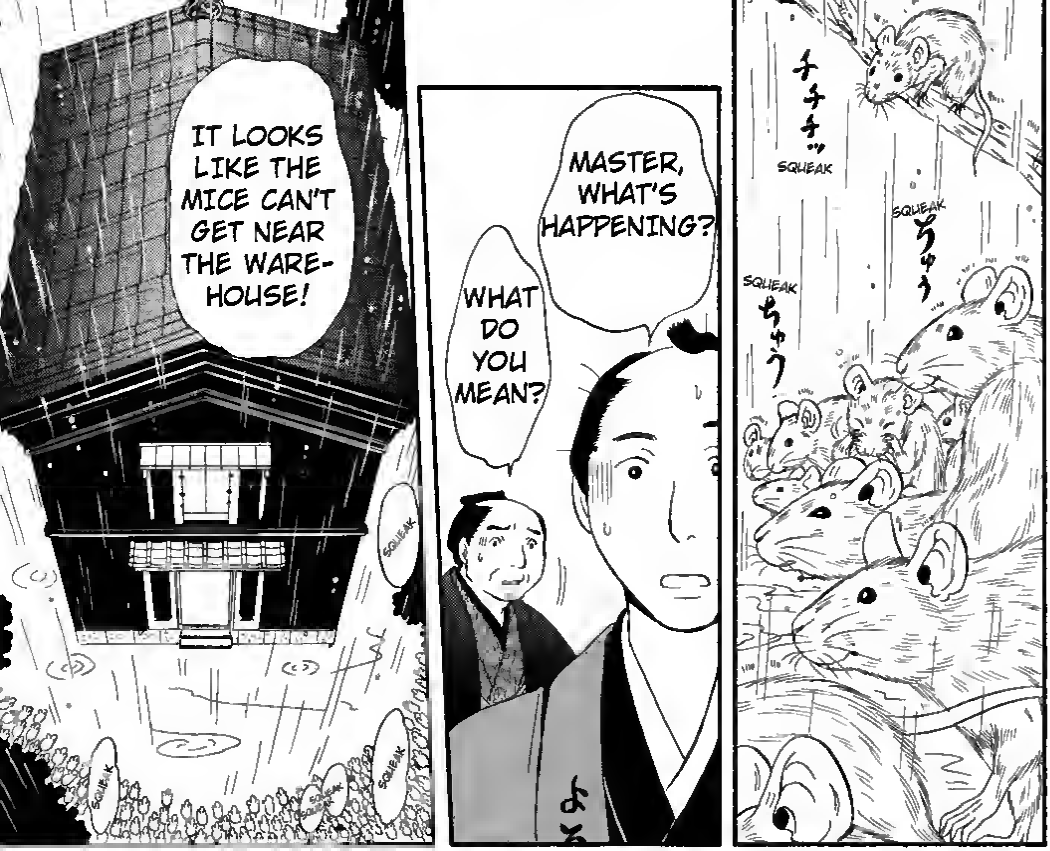
OMOTO HAS BEEN ACTING STRANGELY RECENTLY, HASN'T SHE?
SSSHHH...
COULD IT BE? THAT OMOTO IS...?
IS SHE LOVE-SICK?
OR SOMETHING?
SHE'S BEEN UNUSUALLY DEPRESSED.
SHE'S ALWAYS SIGHING.
SIGH...
BANG!
HMM.
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN EVER SINCE THE WARE-HOUSE WAS COMPLETED.
AARR-GGHH!!
WHO COULD IT BE?
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHAT IS IT?
OU... OUT-SIDE!
MA... MASTER! PLEASE, YOU MUST ESCAPE!

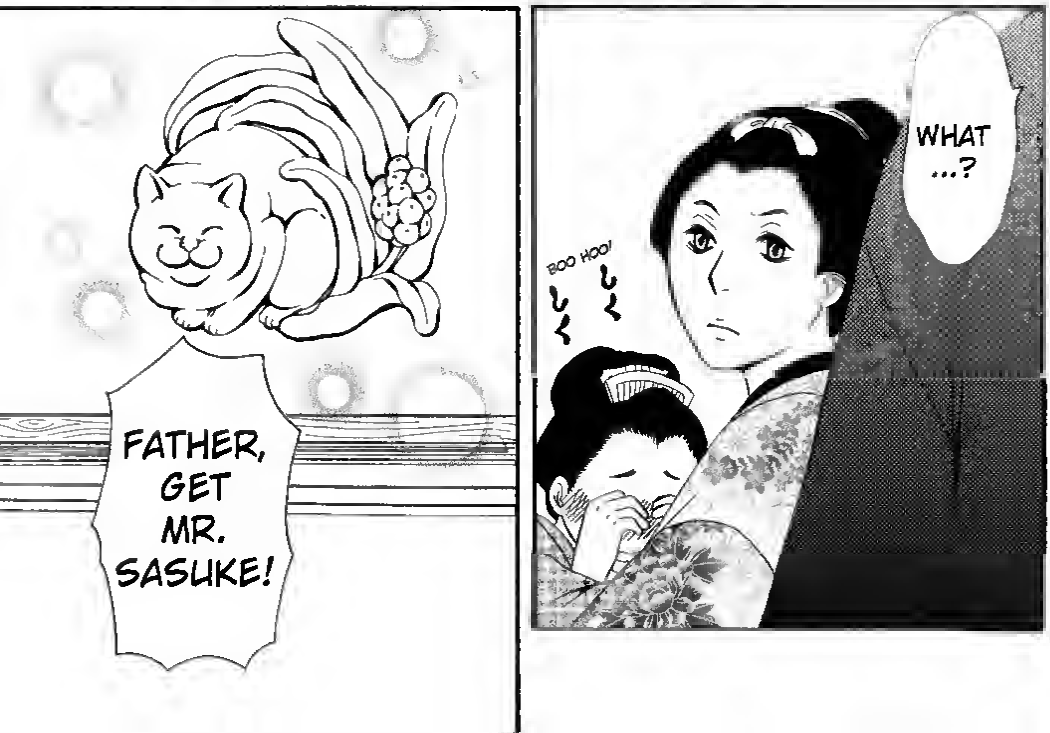
SQUEAK!
SQUEEEEAK!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK!
IT'S AN...
AN... INFEST-ATION OF MICE!
AAA-AAH!

ドタ
SMACK!
ULIH!
AAA-AARGH!
バン
BANG!
LADY OMOTO, THIS WAY!
DON'T GNAW AT THE MEDICINE!
SQUEAK!
GET THE GOODS OUT OF HERE!
EEE-TEEK!

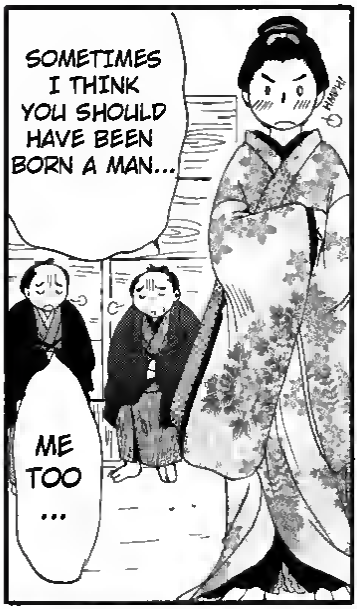
JUST GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
THE GOODS ARE DONE FOR BUT TO LOSE YOU GUYS TOO...
しくしく
BOO HOO!
しくしく
もったいない
SUCH A WASTE!
OK...
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
SQUEAK

MASTER! WE SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE THE EXPENSIVE MEDICINE!
ALL OF YOU! GET TO THE WARE-HOUSE!
SQUEAK


IT LOOKS LIKE THE MICE CAN'T GET NEAR THE WARE-HOUSE!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
MASTER, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
チチチッ
SQUEAK
SQUEAK ちゅう
SQUEAK ちゅう


FATHER, GET MR. SASUKE!
WHAT ...?
BOO HOO! しくしく

NOT HIM! HIS CAT!
AH!
SASUKE? THE PLASTERER?


SOMETIMES I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN A MAN...
HMPH
ME TOO ...

KICK THE MICE OUT OF THE WAY AND BRING HIM BACK HERE!
ドス BAM!
ドス BAM!
OK!
SQUEAK

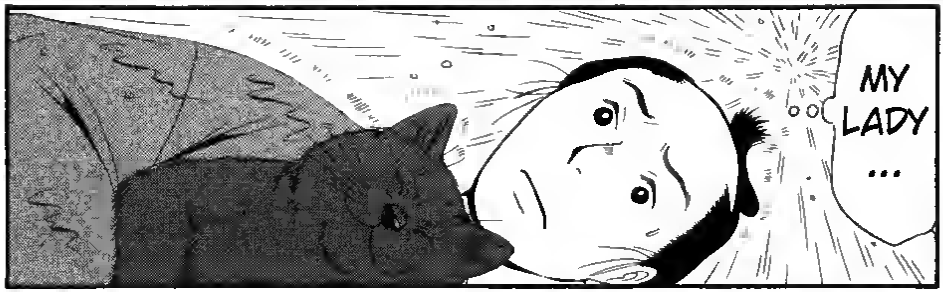
GONZOU! GET TO THE HOUSE ON CAT STREET!
BECAUSE OF THE CAT DECORATION IN THE WAREHOUSE, THE MICE CAN'T GET CLOSE!
OK!
へいっ
よろずや
よろずや

OH, WHAT A SHAME.

SHUP!
ひょい
HEEEY !!
SLAM!
ばん
HUH?
RIGHT NOW, I THINK I'T'S GOOD THAT I'M A WOMAN ...
SIGH...
はぁ
SQUISH
SQUISH
WHERE ARE WE GOIN'?
SOME-ONE'S COMING!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
IT'S OK, SAW!
YES ...
SQUEAK
SSSH...
SSSH
SQUEAK

IT'S MR. SASUKE!
HE'S THERE BY HIMSELF?

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SPLASH
SQUEAK


MY LADY ...

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

OK, DO IT, KURO!
HMM ...

THUD
どぉ
THUD
どぉ
SQUEAK
ナイ
SQUEAK
ちゅ
SIT
ちょこん
WOBBLE
たぷたぷ
"EYES OPEN"
MEEE-OOOW!
SHAAA!

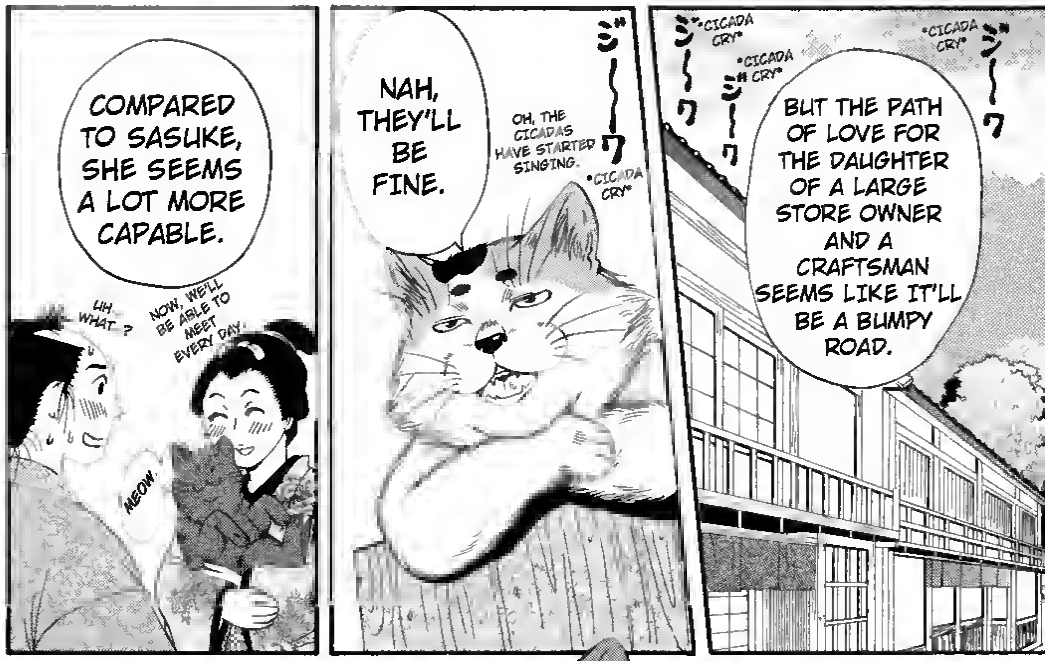
SQUEEEAK
SQUEAK
OUCH!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SHAAAAH!
SQUEAK!
ポ
チャ
ン
DRIP!
PURR
WOOAH!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
RUMBLE!
ド
ド
ド
ド
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HUH
...?

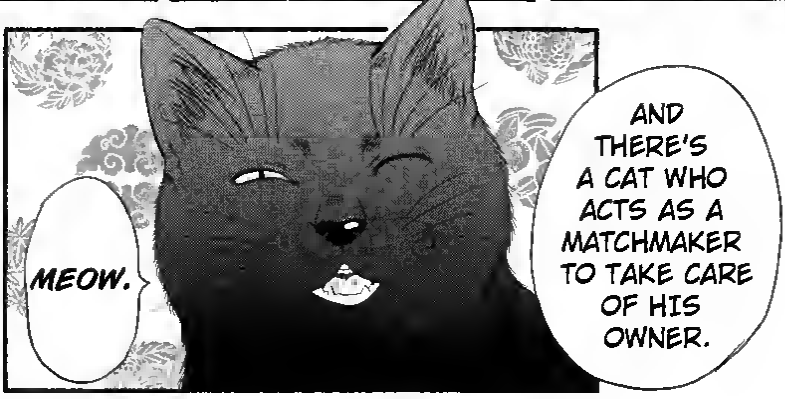
IS THIS A DREAM?
THANK YOU!
KITTY!
IT WAS SO SCARY!
HUH?
HMM ...
YOU ARE A MAN!
YOU DID SO WELL, SASUKE!
PLEASE, YOU MUST GIVE ME THAT CAT!
ANY-THING BUT THAT!
うぅ～
UHNNH
THAT CAT WILL BECOME A FAMILY TREASURE!
PLEASE, I WANT TO STAY TOGETHER. I KNOW I'M ASKING TOO MUCH, BUT...

AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE
I WILL CARE WITH ALL MY HEART.
I'M SORRY.
PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT! IF THE MICE WERE TO COME BACK...
WELL THEN, FATHER ...
えー
UMMM
恐ろしや
THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLE!
MEOW.

MR. SASUKE CAN BRING HIM HERE AND PICK HIM UP WHEN HE HAS TIME OFF FROM WORK.
OH ...
THAT'S ... I... UM...
IF THIS CAT WERE TO WORK AS A BODYGUARD TO KEEP AWAY MICE, WHO COMES AND GOES, THEN THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO LIVE HERE.
MEOW.
YES, BUT ...
SASUKE, PLEASE, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, BRING YOUR CAT HERE EVERY DAY!
CHASING MICE AWAY IS EASY BUT GATHERING THEM IS NO MEAN FEAT.
PHEW, I AM TIRED!
MY, OH MY.
PLEASE, WE BEG OF YOU...
UHH ...

AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK, I FEEL LIKE KNOCKING BACK SOME COLD SAKE.
WE'LL BUY SOME FROM THE SAKE MERCHANT ON THE WAY BACK.
はい YEAH, YEAH


BUT THE PATH OF LOVE FOR THE DAUGHTER OF A LARGE STORE OWNER AND A CRAFTSMAN SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE A BUMPY ROAD.
ジーワ "CICADA CRY"
NAH, THEY'LL BE FINE.
OH, THE CICADAS HAVE STARTED SINGING.
COMPARED TO SASUKE, SHE SEEMS A LOT MORE CAPABLE.
UH, WHAT...?
NOW, WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET EVERY DAY.
MEOW



第七話 完

END OF CHAPTER 7

IT WAS THE NIGHT OF A NEW MOON, SO THERE WAS NO MOON-LIGHT.
I WAS PASSING BY HOUTOKU TEMPLE ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE DOJO.
GHOST STORY CAT
怪談猫の巻
FROM THE DISTANCE ...
DRAG
FLAP FLAP
...THERE CAME A STRANGE SOUND ...
DRAG
FLAP
I TURNED MY LANTERN TO SEE WHAT WAS MAKING THE SOUND ....
DRAAAG
FLAP
DRAG
THE WOODEN GRAVE TABLETS WERE RATTLING IN THE WIND.
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT THE NIGHT WIND WAS STARTING TO BLOW ...
FLAP
FLAP
DRAAAG
DRAG
FLAP

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER
猫絵十兵衛
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし
御伽草紙
THERE I SAW ...
A HUGE CAT !!
FLAP
FLAP
HA!

ふぐはははは
BWAHAHAHAHAHA!!
ARRRGHHH!!
IT APPEARED DRAGGING A CARP ALONG.
A CAT!?
WHAT THE HELL!?
THAT'S NOT EVEN THE LEAST BIT SCARY. BORING ...!
MR. NISHIURA, I KNOW YOU HATE CATS BUT COME ON!

HAHAHA!
はははっ
AHAHAHAHA
アハハハハ
THAT ...

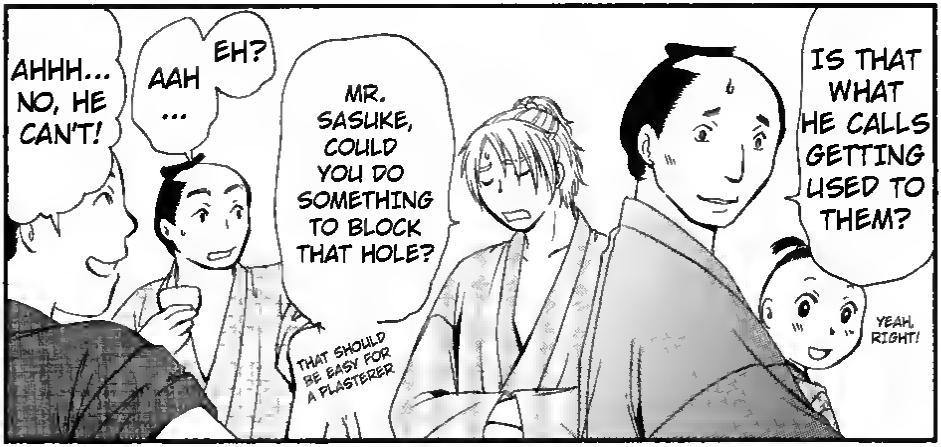
THAT IS MY SCARY STORY, MR. JUBEI!
THAT THING WAS FAR MORE TERRIFYING THAN ANY GHOST!
REALLY ...?

GEEZ... WE'RE TRYING TO TELL "CHILLING" STORIES TO AVOID THE SUMMER HEAT...
THAT'S CRAZY!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING US FUNNY STORIES?

ONCE, WHILE TRAVELING, I SAW HEADLESS WARRIORS WALKING AROUND AN OLD BATTLEFIELD.
CLANK!
CLANK
CLANK
AFTER ALL, I CAN BEAT THE UNDEAD JUST WITH MY FIGHTING SPIRIT!
WOOOAH...
COMPARED TO THAT, THE CAT HAS A SOFT BODY, COVERED IN FUR.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, IT WILL COME RIGHT UP TO YOU! THERE IN THE FLESH!
I CAN'T FIGHT SOMETHING FEEBLE LIKE THAT!
YEAH, YEAH.
MEW!
TIGER!
BUT WHY IS IT THAT YOU ARE ONLY OKAY AROUND TIGER?
CLIMB
PAT PAT

BUT THANKS TO THE HOUSE ON CAT STREET, I HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE MORE USED TO CATS.
YOU STOPPED SUDDENLY FAINTING AT THE SIGHT OF A CAT!
WELL... A FEW THINGS HAVE HAPPENED ...
PURR PURR
IN A DREAM...
AHH... THAT WAS PRETTY EMBARA-SSING ...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
GRIN
にゃり
AAAAAARRGGHH!!
BANG!
CRASH!
SIGN
CAT PICTURES
JUBSI

THAT IDIOT! HE RAN HOME THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE WALL!

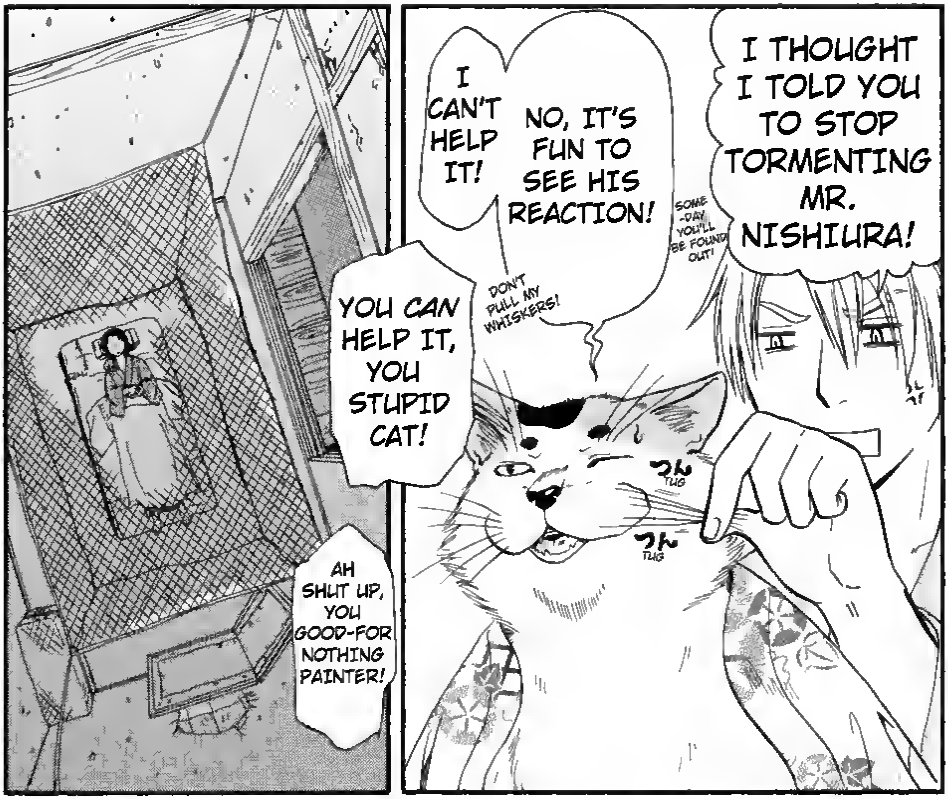

AHHH... NO, HE CAN'T!
AAH ...
EH?
MR. SASUKE, COULD YOU DO SOMETHING TO BLOCK THAT HOLE?
THAT SHOULD BE EASY FOR A PLASTERER
IS THAT WHAT HE CALLS GETTING USED TO THEM?
YEAH, RIGHT!

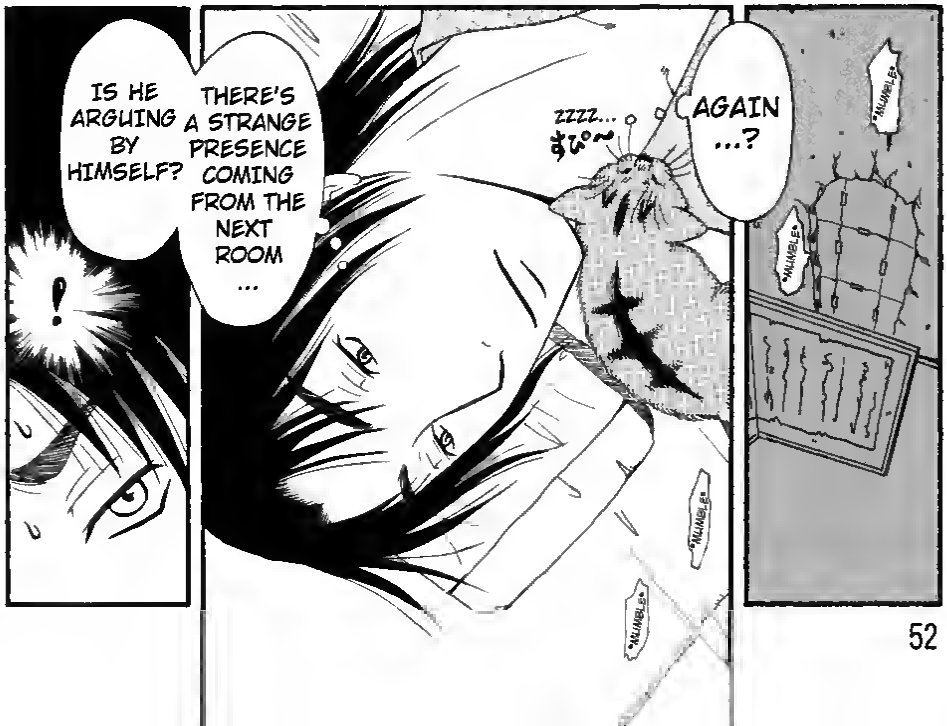
AHAHAHA!
おはは
ALRIGHT, DRINK, DRINK!
I SAID IT'S NOT TRUE!

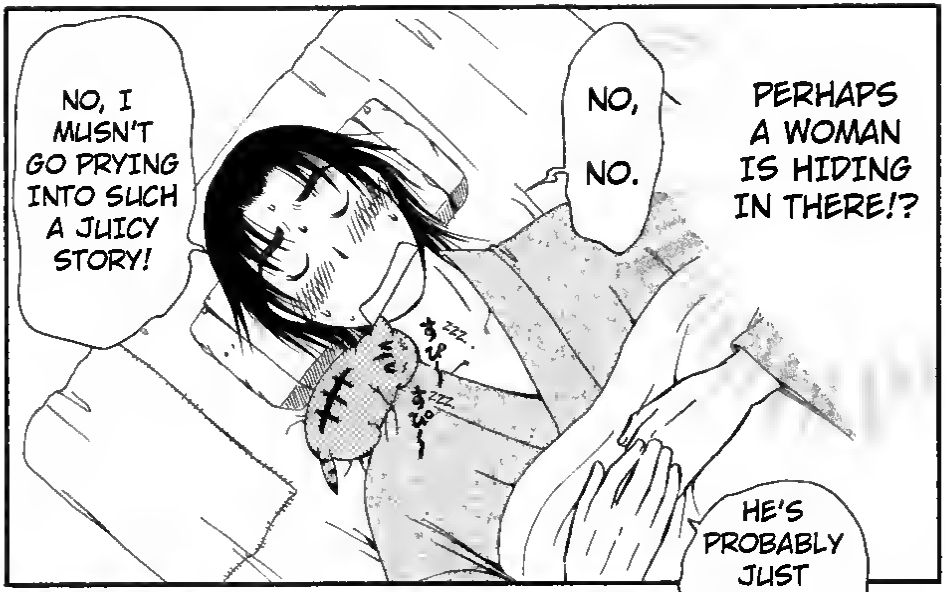
MR. JU... JUBEI? YOU TOO ...?
HMMM... IS THAT STILL GOING WELL?
ISN'T THAT GREAT?

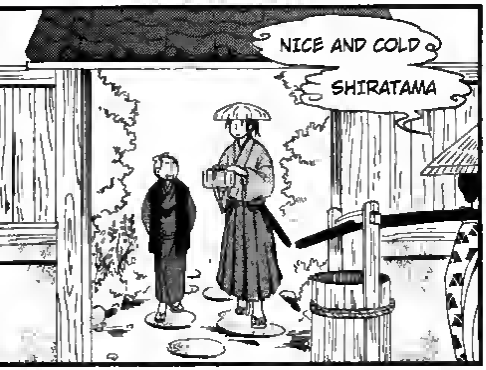
NO... NO I DON'T!
ON HIS DAYS OFF, HE HAS A DATE WITH YOROZUYA'S DAUGHTER!
おもと
INTRODUCED IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER
I JUST TAKE MY CAT THERE TO WORK!

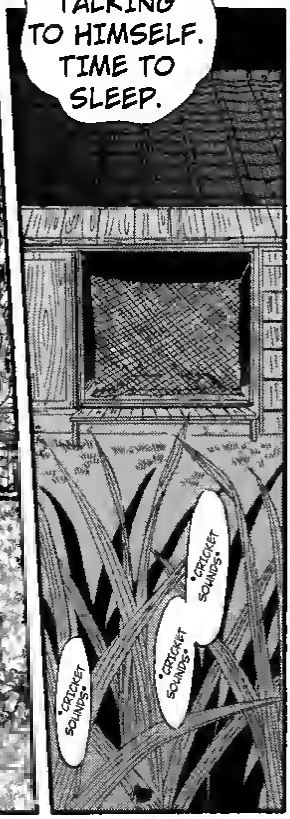
YOU CAN'T EASE THE HEAT WITH FEAR.
THUNK
WHY DO PEOPLE TELL GHOST STORIES IN THE SUMMER?
GLUG GLUG
GOO-HUMP
IT'S THE FEELING. THE FEELING.
にょほほほ HO HO HO
SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT "IF YOU SHUT DOWN YOUR MIND, YOU WON'T FEEL THE FIRE"?*
*JAPANESE PROVERB, STATING THAT SUFFERING CAN BE OVERCOME BY EMPTYING THE MIND
HMM?
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY, NITA ...

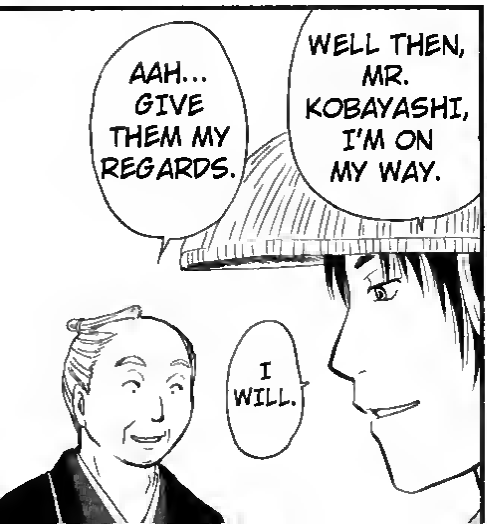

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STOP TORMENTING MR. NISHIURA!
SOME-DAY YOU'LL BE FOUND OUT!
NO, IT'S FUN TO SEE HIS REACTION!
I CAN'T HELP IT!
DON'T PULL MY WHISKERS!
YOU CAN HELP IT, YOU STUPID CAT!
TUG
TUG
AH SHUT UP, YOU GOOD-FOR NOTHING PAINTER!


AGAIN ...?
ZZZZ...
THERE'S A STRANGE PRESENCE COMING FROM THE NEXT ROOM ...
IS HE ARGUING BY HIMSELF?
!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE





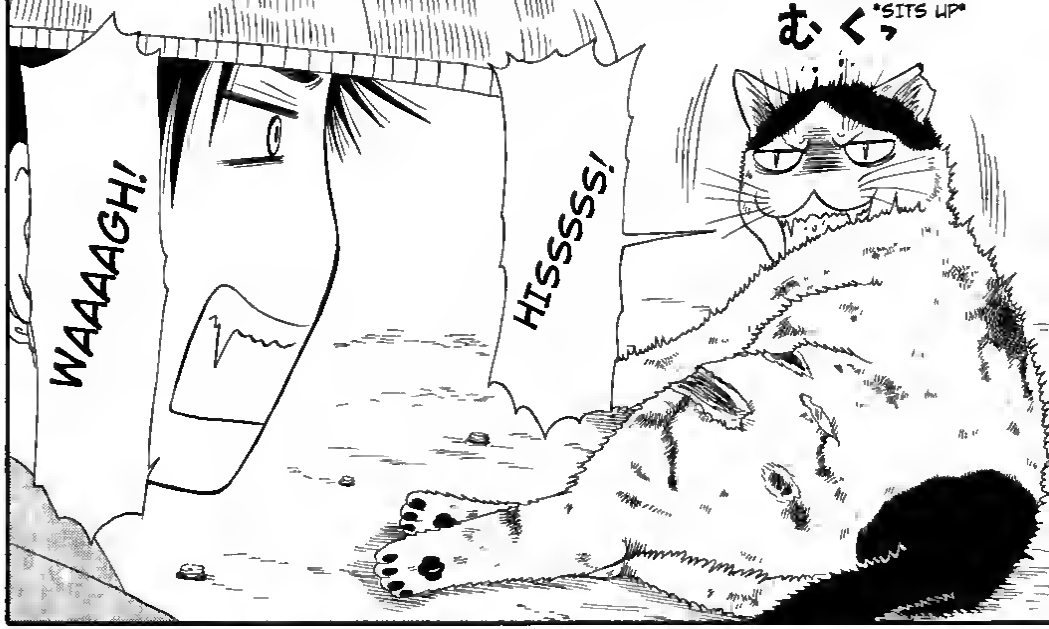


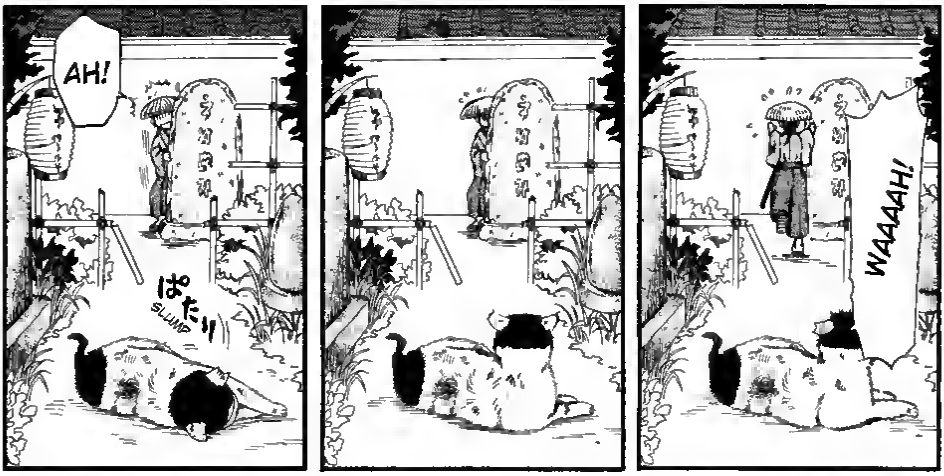


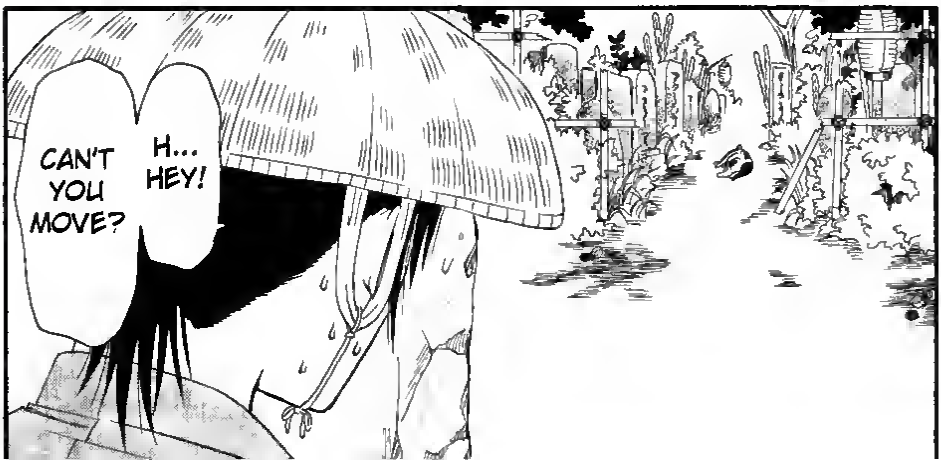
SHIRATAMA = A JAPANESE SWEET

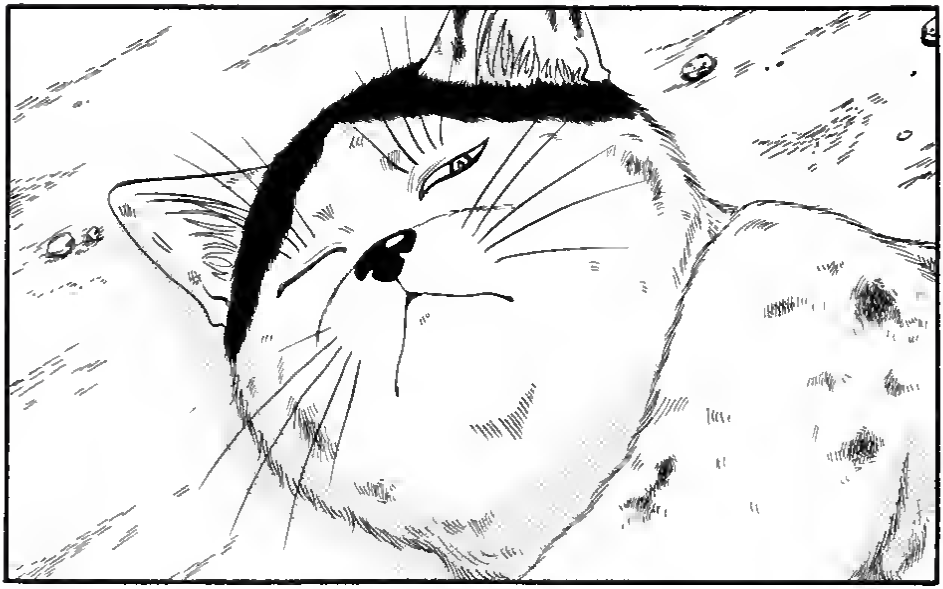
"CICADA CRYING"
じ～わ
じ～わ
"CICADA CRYING"
DON'T GET HELD UP BY ANY STRANGE WOMEN ON THE WAY!
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT SO LOUDLY, SENSEI!
HOUTOKU TEMPLE ...
きょろ "LOOKS AROUND"
きょろ
ホ～ PHEW!
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE NO CATS HERE TODAY!

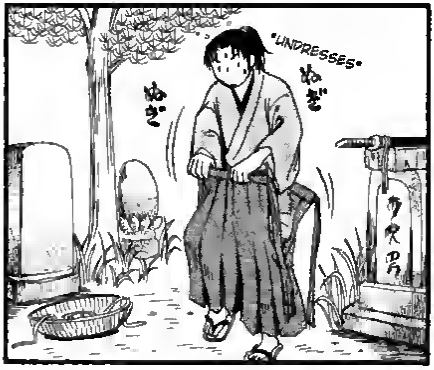
!?
RUSTLE!
ARGH!
IS... IS IT DEAD !?
IS THAT THE CAT FROM BEFORE ...?
WHAT SHOULD I...
WH... WHA...


WAAAAGH!
HISSSSS!
むくっ
SITS UP

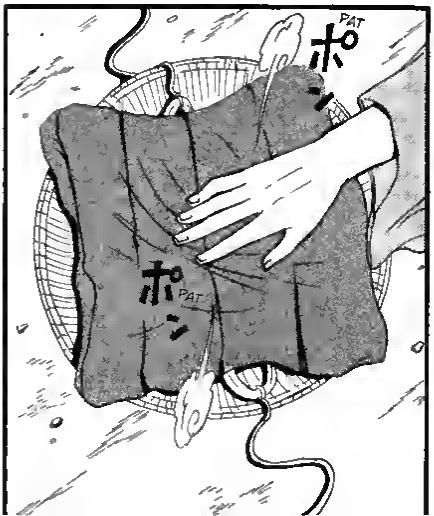

AH!
ばたり
SLUMP
WAAAAH!


CAN'T YOU MOVE?
H... HEY!




"UNDRESSES"
ぬぎ
ぬぎ

GULP!
ゴクッ
O...
OKAY
...


PAT
ポン
PAT
ポン

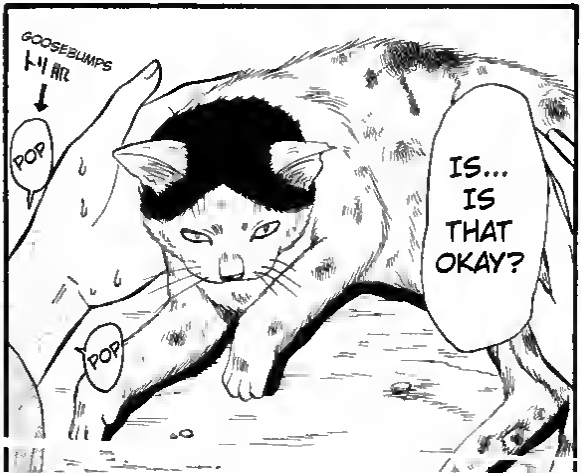
...
PLEASE, GET IN!
THERE!
TRAAAA
SIGH...
フーッ
WHAT!?
YOU'RE SIGHING!?
I CAN PUT YOU IN THERE USING THIS RAKE BUT ...
WILL THAT BE ALRIGHT ...?

THAT'S NO GOOD ...
I THOUGHT SO..
UH ... UHH ...
UUH フゥ
フゥ UUH.
ITS BACK LEG... IS THAT A BITE MARK ...? DID A DOG DO THIS?
IT'S LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD... IF LEFT LIKE THIS, IT WILL...
IT'S BREATH-ING QUICKLY ...

じーわ
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY
……
じーわ
CICADA CRY
じーわ
CICADA CRY

Y... YOU MUSN'T STRUGGLE, OKAY?
IS IT OKAY? FOR ME TO TOUCH YOU?
I WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY MORE HARM.

RUSTLE
PEEP
ぴくん


GOOSEBUMPS
トリ肌
POP
POP
IS... IS THAT OKAY?

ボーワ…
BACKGROUND NOISE
キュッ
"TIES IT TIGHTLY"
OKAY!
I... CAN CARRY YOU LIKE THIS.
HRRNNN...!
ザワ
MUTTER
ザワ
MUTTER
SUNSHADE
TSK!
ISN'T IT SOME KIND OF MAGIC SPELL?
IS THAT A NEW KIND OF STREET PERFORMANCE?
THIS IS TRAINING. YES, TRAINING.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE

TORI MARKET = MARKET WHERE RAKES ARE SOLD FOR GOOD LUCK

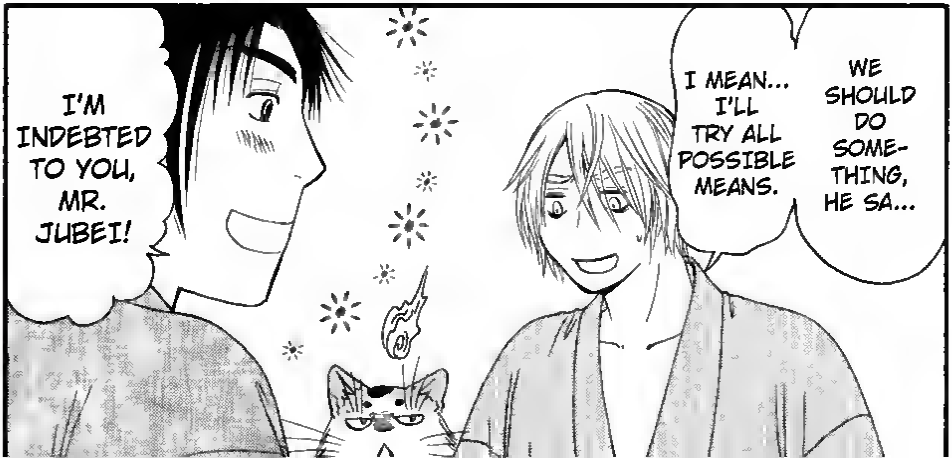
IN THE HOUTOKU TEMPLE GRAVE-YARD...
I DIDN'T CATCH IT.
WOAH... THIS IS PRETTY BAD...
WHERE DID YOU CATCH IT?

YOU WERE TAUNTING A DOG BUT GOT BITTEN INSTEAD?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
EH?
EH?
HMM ?
IT'S THE ONE FROM YOUR EXCLUSIVE GHOST STORY, MR. NISHIURA.
IT'S NOT EXCLU-SIVE TO ME .

THAT WOULD JUST OPEN UP THE WOUNDS AGAIN.
WHY DON'T WE SOAK IT IN WATER?
THE INJURIES ARE SERIOUS BUT IT HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE HEAT.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.

OH ...
THAT'S RIGHT ...

HMM?
しょんぼり
*DEJECTED
トン TAP
トン TAP


I'M INDEBTED TO YOU, MR. JUBEI!
I MEAN... I'LL TRY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS.
WE SHOULD DO SOME-THING, HE SA...

IS THIS ALRIGHT, NITA?
IT'S FINE.
ガラッ
CLATTER
I'LL BE BACK SOON!
S... SORRY!
こえん
十兵衛
OKAY
DON'T YOU NEED TO DELIVER THAT PARCEL?
THAT'S FINE, WHATEVER, BUT ...
REALLY, IT'S NOT GOOD FOR GUYS LIKE ME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.
YOU LIAR! YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING THAT!
HOHOHOHO!
にょほほほ
WELL, UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE, YASABUROU IS OBEDIENT AND CHARMING.

シュ
SCRAPE
シュ
SCRAPE
MR. NISHIURA DID THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT GOOD WITH CATS, AND HE COULD'VE PRETENDED THAT HE HADN'T SEE HIM.
THAT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE JUST DOES WHAT HE WANTS, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT LOSS OR GAIN.
SORRY, PLEASE STEP ASIDE!
WELL,
THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM.
OK, THE MEDICINE SHOULD START WORKING SOON
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
ペた
STICK
ペた
STICK

THE PICTURE'S FINISHED.
"CICADA CRYING"
じ〜わ
じ〜わ
"CICADA CRYING"
"CICADA CRYING"
じ〜わ
"CICADA CRYING"
PUFF
ふかぁ〜
"CICADA CRY"
"CICADA CRYING"
じ〜わ
じ〜わ

OK ...?
JUST HOLD IT LIKE THAT.
GOOD ENOUGH.
DOES THIS LOOK GOOD TO YOU?
ぴたっ
PAT!
フゥ
UHH
フゥ
UHH
GULP!
WHOOOOSH!!

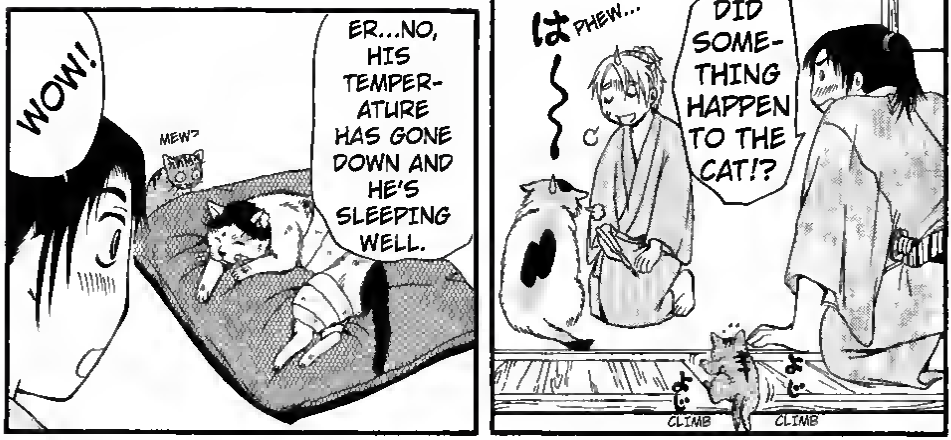
SPIN!
くりっ
FWOOOOOSH!!
WOAH!
RUSTLE
SSSS SSS
RUSTLE
WHAT ...?

FWOOOM!
ギャーAAAH!!

BURP!
OKAY, ALL DONE.
WHAP!
AAARGH!! FIRE! FIRE!
WHAP!

NI...TA....
OWW...
SQUIDGE!
THE REST DEPENDS ON HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH. NYAHOO!
THE MEDICINAL PASTE THAT WAS MADE BEFORE SHOULD HEAL THE WOUNDS.
THE HEAT FROM HIS BODY TRANSFERRED TO THE PICTURE.

BAM!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RUCKUS?
WHAT IF THERE WAS A FIRE!?
火事になったらどうするー…
TELL ME BEFORE YOU USE ANY DANGEROUS TECH-NIQUES !!
OW OW OW! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
MEW!
MEW!
!
WRITING ON FOREHEAD. IDIOT
バカ
HE FOUND OUT?
バカ
IDIOT
COULD ...
IT BE ...


WOW!
MEW?
ER...NO, HIS TEMPER-ATURE HAS GONE DOWN AND HE'S SLEEPING WELL.
はPHEW...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO THE CAT!?
CLIMB
CLIMB

ZZZ...
ZZZ...

WOAH, ENOUGH WITH THE THANKS! YOU'RE EMBARA-SSING ME!
I OFFER MY MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE!
MEW
HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?
YOU ...
MEW!
にひっ GRIN
THE CARE HE RECEIVES FROM NOW IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
YES?
NEOW...
YOU DON'T MEAN ...!?

CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
SWEET
...HAS COME SO I LOOK FROM THE WINDOW
HAHAH
アハハ
WITHOUT SNEAKING AROUND AT NIGHT, E LITTLE WINDOW OF SETOU
CHATTER
ワイ
CHATTER
ワイ
YIP YIP
ガヤ
HAHAH
ハハハ
YIP YIP
ガヤ
よろり
STAGGER
MR. JUBEI, COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME OF THE MEDICINE FOR THE WOUNDS?

YATTOU = KENDO (WAY OF THE SWORD) COMES FROM "YA!" AND "TOU!" WHICH ARE SHOUTED AS BATTLE CRIES

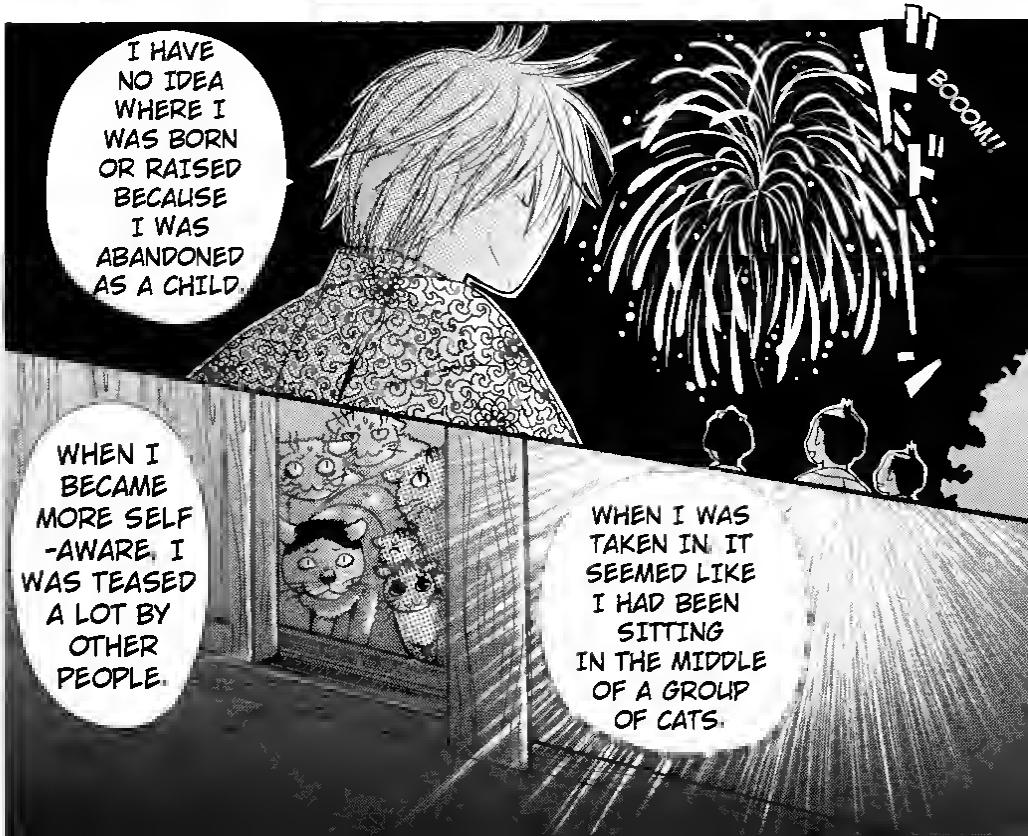
IF YOU THINK OF IT AS "YATTOU" TRAINING, THEN IT'S EASY, RIGHT?
ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?
WOW! A NEW CAT!
新入りネコ
HOW IS THIS TRAINING !?
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
YOU'RE BECOMING MORE GAUNT DAY BY DAY.
"GETTING THIN"
EVERY DAY IS HELL!
OK, DINNER TIME!
PLEASE POOP IN HERE ...
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
EWW...
LOOSE BUNS
MMM
猫用かわや
TOILET FOR CATS
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT MIXED UP IN THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, MR. NISHIURA ...
UGH!
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
YOU ARE SUCH A WIMP!
BWA HA!
OH, HE'S INJURED!

MEOW!
BESIDES, IT SEEMS LIKE THAT CAT HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
NOW YOU CAN TOUCH CATS OTHER THAN JUST KITTENS, RIGHT?
BWA HA HA HA !!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LAUGH THAT MUCH
HEY, DON'T HOLD BACK, LAUGH NORMALLY, PLEASE!
SNORT !!
YES ...
...
NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT

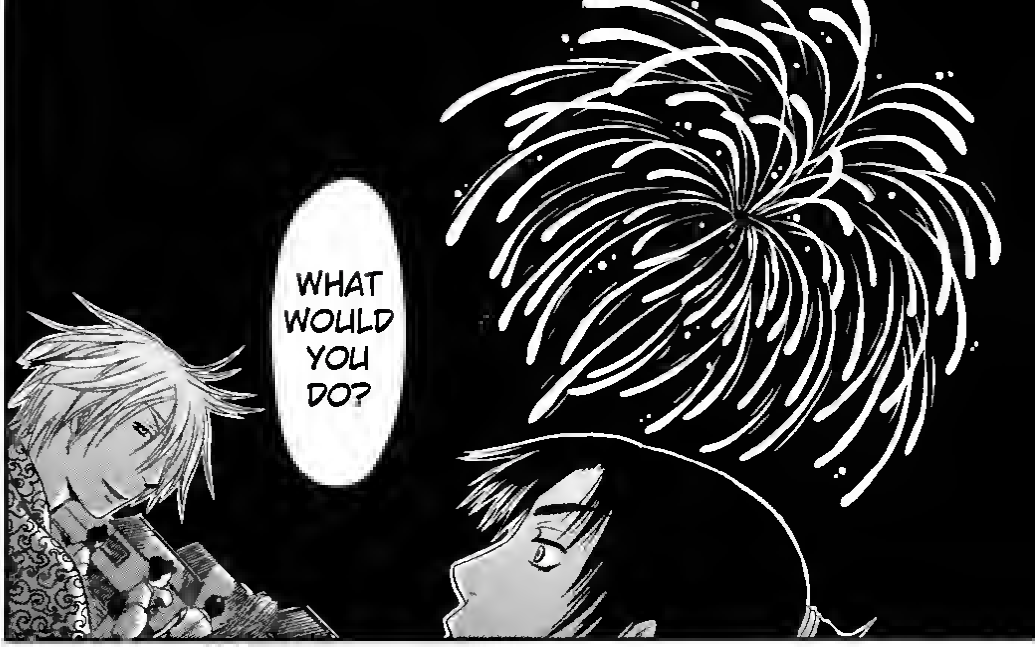
FOR SOME REASON
THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU COMPARED TO MOST PEOPLE.
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU.
MEW!
にゃっ
ARE YOU A PHYSIO-GNOMIST, MR. NISHIURA?
IT'S JUST YOUR PRESENCE.
MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION BUT SOME-TIMES, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT CATS ARE SAYING ...
HA HA HA WHAT A SILLY IDEA!
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
HOW ABOUT IF I REALLY SAID THAT?

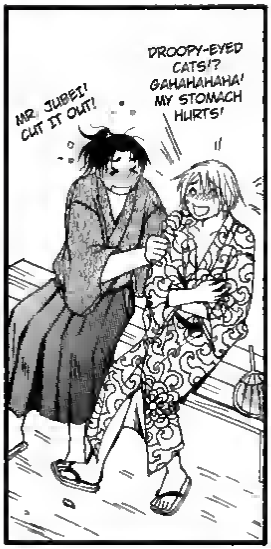
PHYSIOGNOMIST = FORTUNE TELLER WHO READS PEOPLE'S FACIAL FEATURES

FIZZLE!
FIZZLE!
FIZZLE!
WHAT ... WAS THAT ...?
BOOOM!!
ヒュールルルル
PYOOOO!!
AH! IT'S GOING UP!
ぴゃ
WHOOSH!
!


I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I WAS BORN OR RAISED BECAUSE I WAS ABANDONED AS A CHILD.
BOOOM!!
WHEN I BECAME MORE SELF-AWARE, I WAS TEASED A LOT BY OTHER PEOPLE.
WHEN I WAS TAKEN IN, IT SEEMED LIKE I HAD BEEN SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A GROUP OF CATS.

SON OF A CAT
BOOOOM!!
IS WHAT THEY'D CALL ME.
FIZZLE
FIZZLE
FIZZLE
IF THAT WERE TRUE ...

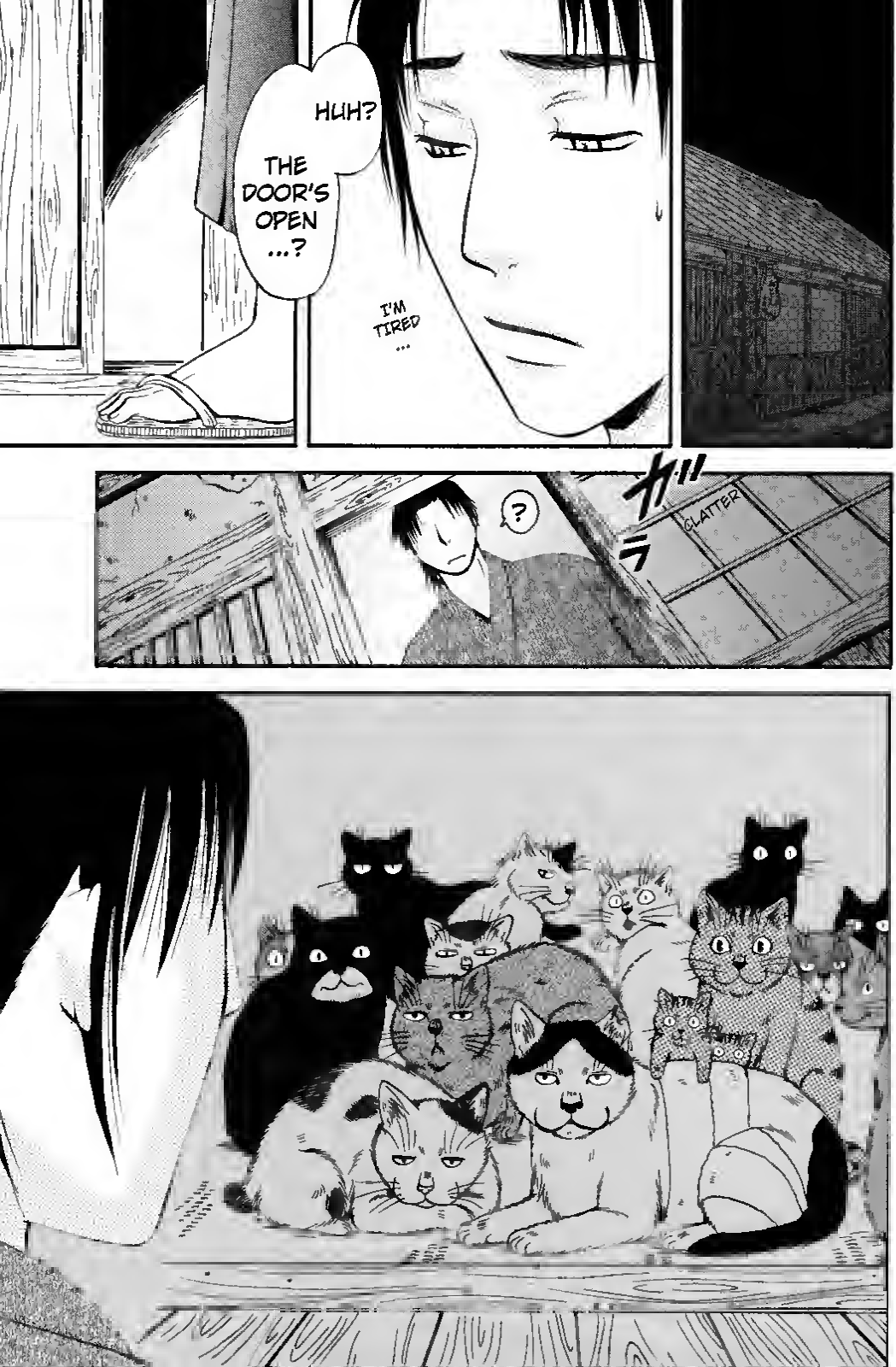

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

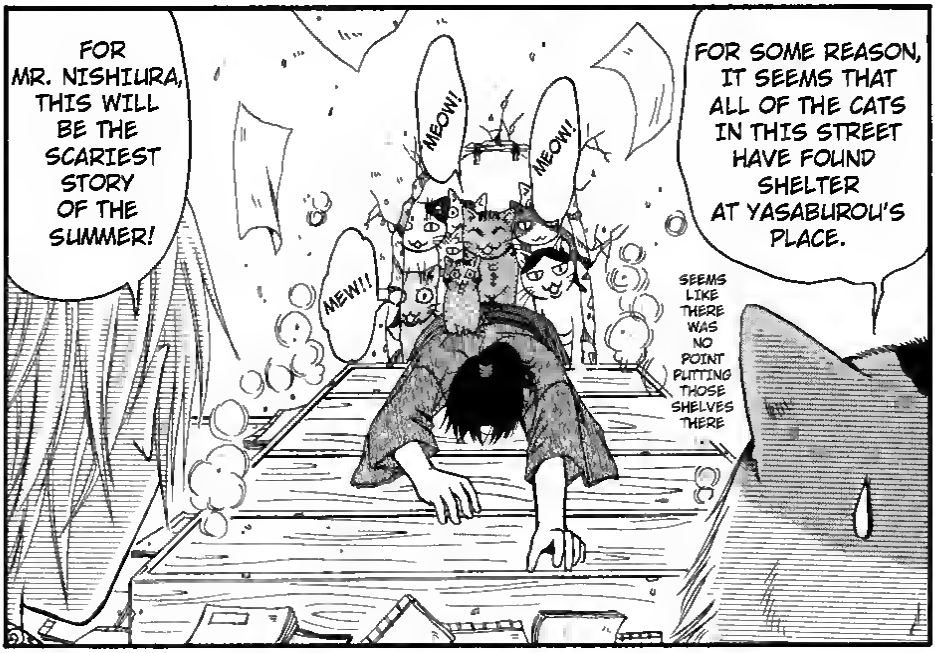

MR. JUBEI! CUT IT OUT!
DROOPY-EYED CATS!? GAHAHAHAHA! MY STOMACH HURTS!

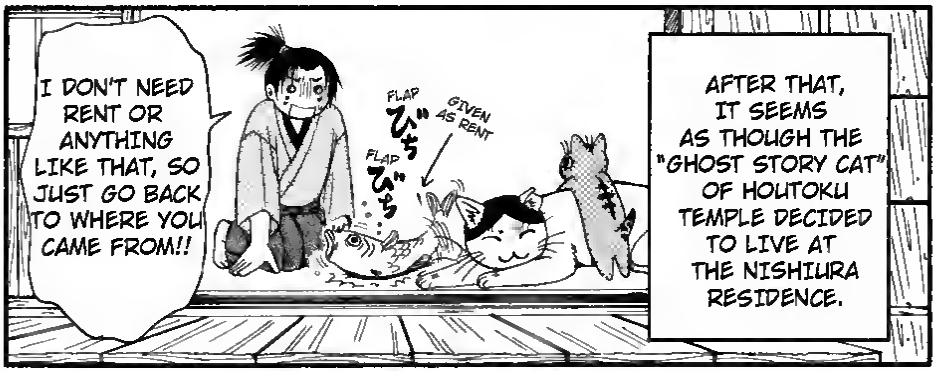
AH! PERHAPS THAT'S ANOTHER ONE OF MY EXCLUSIVE GHOST STORIES!
BWAHA!
ぶはー
HYA HYA HYA !!

I THINK YOUR PARENTS WOULD BE VERY DROOPY-EYED CATS.
WELL,
IF THAT WERE TRUE? AH... UM...
SWEAT
だら
SWEAT
だら
SWEAT
だら
LOOKS ROUND
ちらっ

BOOOOM!!
ドー
BOOOOM!!
ドォーン
GA HA HA HA HA !!
CUT IT OUT ...


HUH?
THE DOOR'S OPEN ...?
I'M TIRED ...
?
GLATTER


FOR MR. NISHIURA, THIS WILL BE THE SCARIEST STORY OF THE SUMMER!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEW!!
FOR SOME REASON, IT SEEMS THAT ALL OF THE CATS IN THIS STREET HAVE FOUND SHELTER AT YASABUROU'S PLACE.
SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS NO POINT PUTTING THOSE SHELVES THERE


I DON'T NEED RENT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, SO JUST GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM!!
FLAP
FLAP
GIVEN AS RENT
AFTER THAT, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE "GHOST STORY CAT" OF HOUTOKU TEMPLE DECIDED TO LIVE AT THE NISHIURA RESIDENCE.

第八話 完

END OF CHAPTER 8

TALES OF A
CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

御伽草紙

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

観月猫（かんげつねこ）の巻

THE MOON VIEWING CAT

TAP TAP
CHIP CHIP
CHIP!
TAP TAP TAP
CHIP!
SCRAPE
SHINOBU
SCRAPE

HEY, SHINOBU!
YES !?
HOW'S THE TRANSOM COMING ALONG?
IT SHOULD BE FINISHED WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS.
I... I'M SORRY, MASTER.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S GOOD THAT YOU ARE CONCEN-TRATING.
HMM...
IT'S YOUR FIRST BIG JOB, SO DON'T RUSH, TAKE YOUR TIME.
YES!

TRANSOM = A DECORATIVE WOODEN PANEL ABOVE A DOORWAY WITH OPEN-WORK CARVING

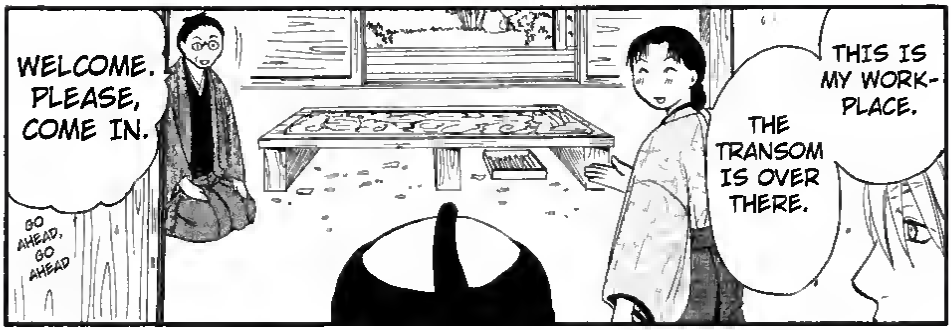
AT ANY RATE, A TRANSOM WITH THE MOON AND A CAT...
...IS AN UNUSUAL ORDER.
MMM...
THE CLIENT, MR. KOINO WAS A LITTLE UNUSUAL HIMSELF!
HAHAHAHA
DISCUSSION WITH THE AUTHOR KOINO HATSUKAZE IN THE PLEASURE DISTRICT
HE CERTAINLY IS BIZARRE BUT HE HAS A SHARP EYE.
SO, STAY FOCUSED UNTIL THE VERY END.
I WILL!

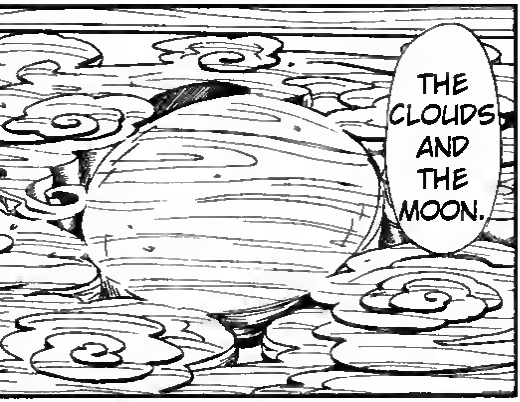
ドン
BAM!
OW!
CRASH!
OOPS, SORRY!
ONCE UMEKICHI HAS FINISHED THE BASE, IT WILL BE COMPLETE.
YOHEI, HOW'S THE BUDDHA STATUE?
YOHEI, IT'S FINISHED!
アハハハ
AHA HA HA
AH ...
IT'S OKAY UME-KICHI.
YOU'RE SO SMALL, I COULDN'T SEE YOU!
Y... YES!
CLATTER
ガラガラ
HELLO, IS ANYONE THERE?
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT!
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE PROPERLY, EVEN IF SHE'S YOUR JUNIOR!
UME-KICHI!

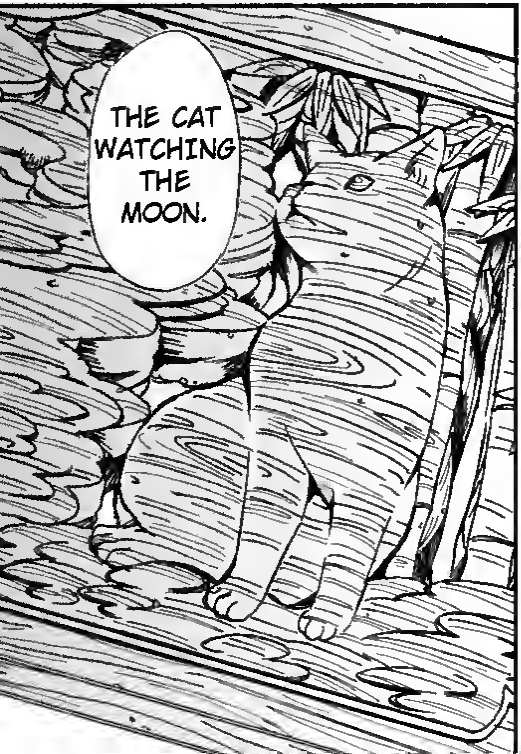
HEY, SHINOBU! ♡ I'VE COME TO SEE "THE MOON VIEWING CAT"!
HEY, HERE'S A PRESENT!
HI
MEOW
YOU'RE A LITTLE CUTIE AS ALWAYS! ♡
MR. KOINO
MR. JUBEI
ARE THE TWO OF YOU ACQUAINTED?
WELL, WE WERE UNITED THROUGH SOME STRANGE TWIST OF DESTINY!
SHUT UP! BEING AROUND YOU MAKES ME FEEL SICK!
THEY ONLY SAY STUFF LIKE THAT FOR MEN AND WOMEN!
THAT'S A SURPRISE!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO DRAW CATS BEFORE.
MR. JUBEI
DAMMIT
PLEASE, COME IN, BOTH OF YOU.
CHIP TAP TAP
OHH ...
SO, SHINOBU, YOU LOVED WOOD CARVING SINCE YOU WERE VERY YOUNG, WHICH IS WHY YOU CHOSE THIS PATH.
YES, I USED TO PLAY ALONE BY CARVING LITTLE PIECES OF WOOD.
WHEN I WAS TWELVE, I LUCKILY BECAME THE MASTER'S APPRENTICE.
THIS TIME ...

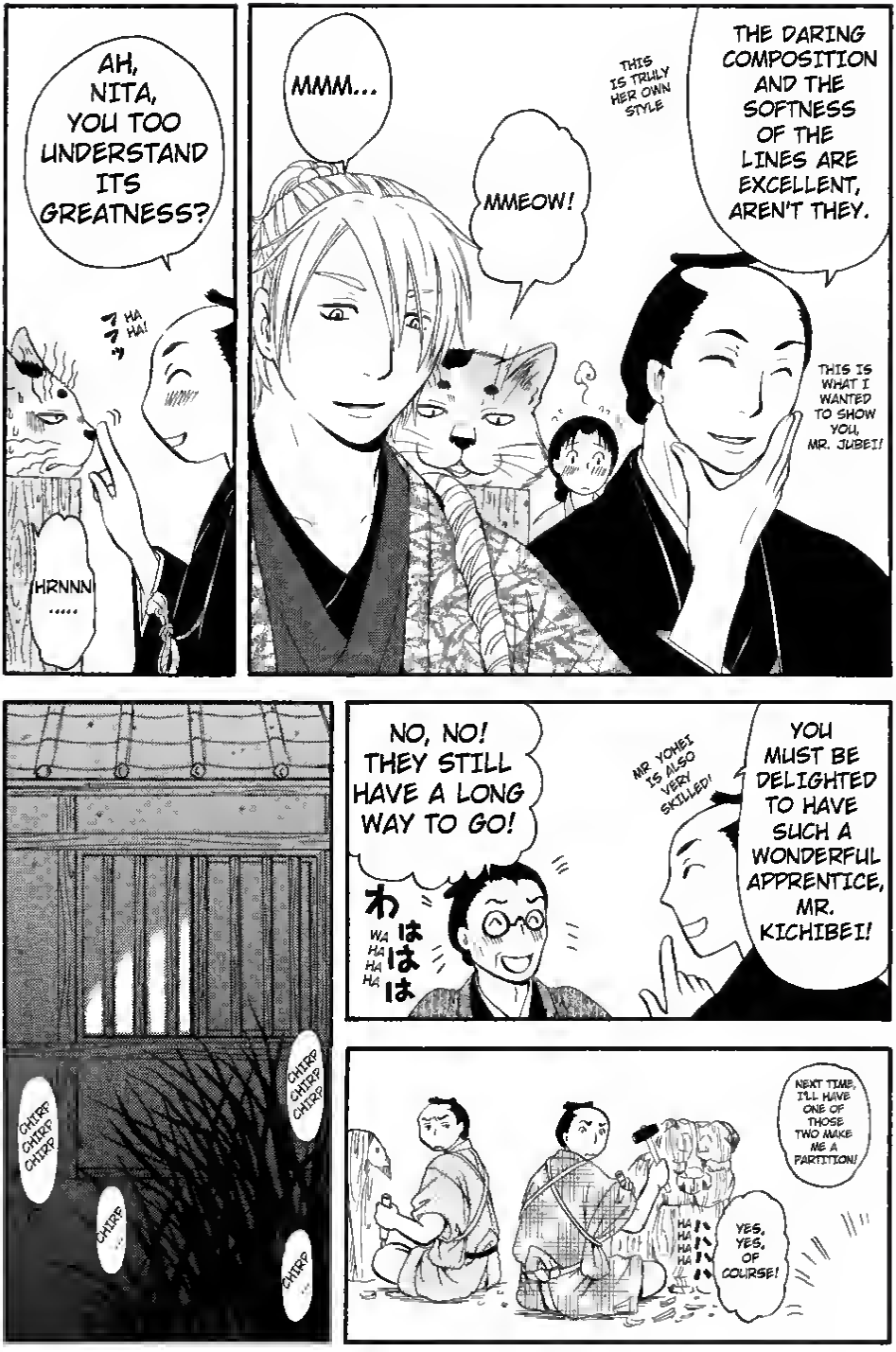
TO BE ABLE TO CARVE A TRANSOM IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.
A WOMAN LIKE ME IS UNWORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOR.
OH REALLY?
WHEN IT COMES TO BEING AN ARTISAN, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A MAN OR A WOMAN.
HE MEANS ME, ME!
YES!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
IF YOU MAKE SOMETHING GREAT, THOSE WITH A GOOD EYE WILL RECOGNIZE IT AS SUCH.


WELCOME. PLEASE, COME IN.
GO AHEAD, GO AHEAD
THIS IS MY WORK-PLACE.
THE TRANSOM IS OVER THERE.

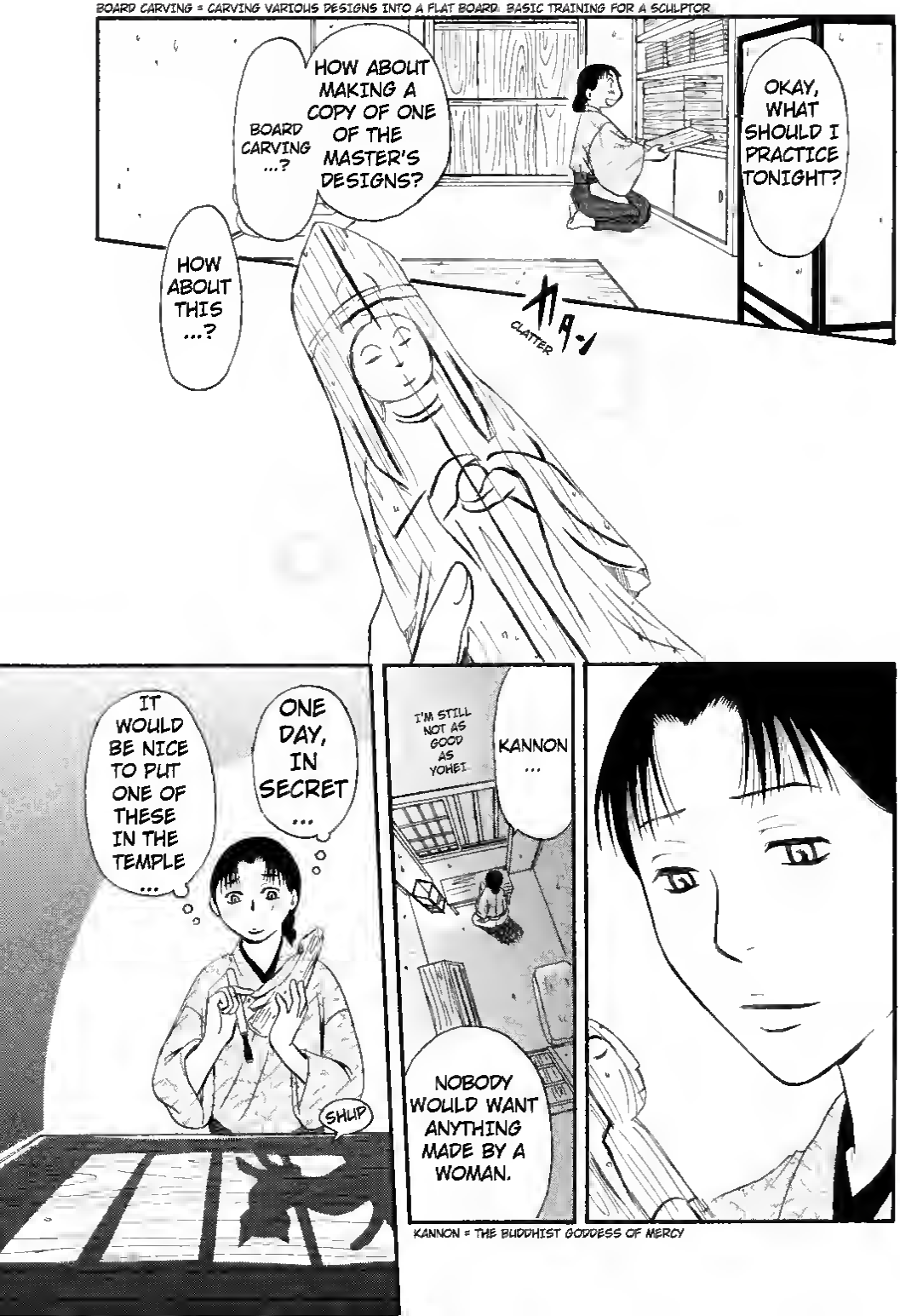

THE CLOUDS AND THE MOON.


THE CAT WATCHING THE MOON.

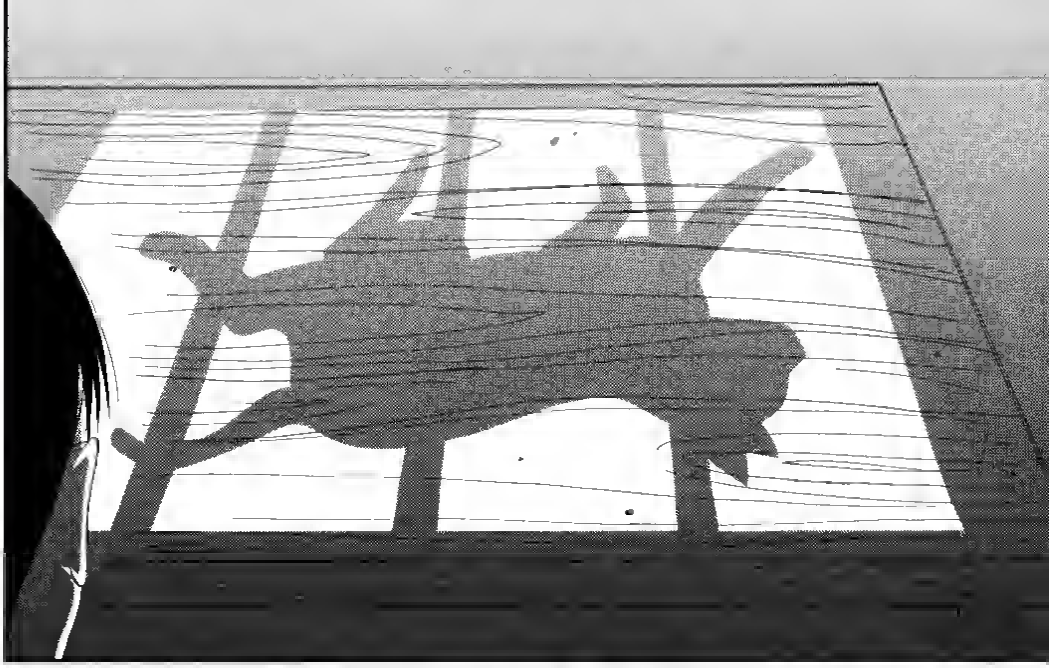
WOW ...


AH, NITA, YOU TOO UNDERSTAND ITS GREATNESS?
HA HA!
HRNNN .....
MMM...
MMEOW!
THIS IS TRULY HER OWN STYLE
THE DARING COMPOSITION AND THE SOFTNESS OF THE LINES ARE EXCELLENT, AREN'T THEY.
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU, MR. JUBEI!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP ...
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP ...
NO, NO! THEY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!
わはは WA HA HA HA
MR YOHEI IS ALSO VERY SKILLED!
YOU MUST BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL APPRENTICE, MR. KICHIBEI!
HA HA HA HA
YES, YES, OF COURSE!
NEXT TIME, I'LL HAVE ONE OF THOSE TWO MAKE ME A PARTITION!

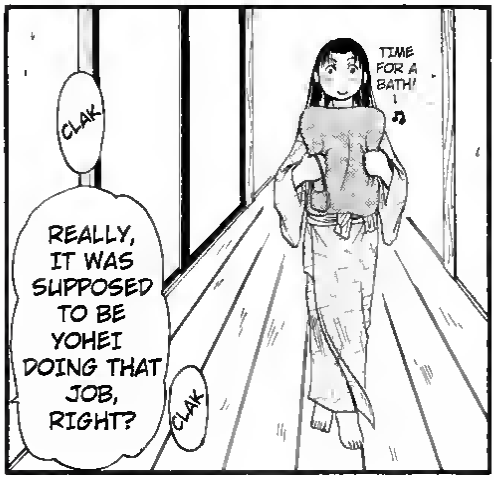
BOARD CARVING = CARVING VARIOUS DESIGNS INTO A FLAT BOARD. BASIC TRAINING FOR A SCULPTOR.


OKAY, WHAT SHOULD I PRACTICE TONIGHT?
HOW ABOUT MAKING A COPY OF ONE OF THE MASTER'S DESIGNS?
BOARD CARVING ...?
HOW ABOUT THIS ...?
CLATTER
KANNON ...
I'M STILL NOT AS GOOD AS YOHEI.
NOBODY WOULD WANT ANYTHING MADE BY A WOMAN.
ONE DAY, IN SECRET ...
IT WOULD BE NICE TO PUT ONE OF THESE IN THE TEMPLE ...
SHLIP

KANNON = THE BUDDHIST GODDESS OF MERCY



SHINOBU
A CAT'S SHADOW ?


CLAK
TIME FOR A BATH! ♪
REALLY, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOHEI DOING THAT JOB, RIGHT?
CLAK

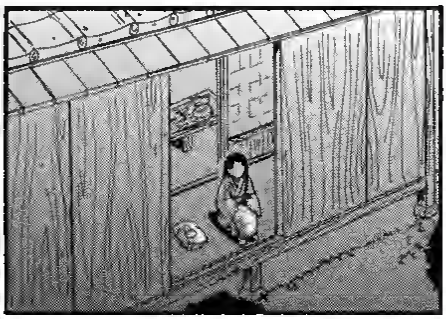
THE BATH'S FREE NOW.
SLIDE
WOAH! Y...YES, MA'AM?
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A BATH
OKAY!

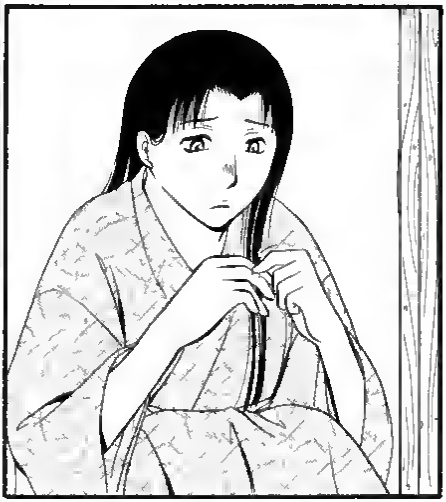
MR. KOINO IS WELL KNOWN FOR BEING A LADIES' MAN!
YEAH, I THOUGHT SO TOO!
IT'S NO SURPRISE HE GAVE HER THE JOB!
YOU GUYS ARE A LITTLE NOISY.
GWA HA HA HA
YEAH THAT'S TRUE!
A WOMAN COULDN'T CARVE A BUDDHIST STATUE ANYWAY!
HEH!
SHE'S A GIRL, SO SHE GETS HER OWN ROOM! IT'S NOT FAIR!

...
CALLOUSES ON THE HANDS.

BEFORE YOU TALK ABOUT PEOPLE BEHIND THEIR BACKS, YOU JERKS SHOULD OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE WHAT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THOSE WHO DON'T WORK HARD...
SCROLL STATUE DESIGNS

DRIP!
ポロ





I WILL FOCUS AS MUCH OF MY POWER INTO THE WOOD AS POSSIBLE.
WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL,
THAT IS ALL I NEED!
RUB ぐし
RUB ぐし

YOU ...
YOU ARE ...?
WHAT ...!?
EEEEEEEK!!
WAS THAT SHINOBU?

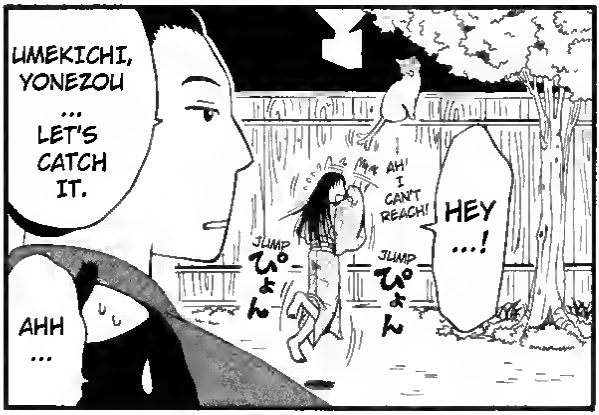
THE CAT ...
WHAT IS IT!?
SHOCK!
MUTTER ボソ
IT'S GONE.
DASH! だっ
AH.. NO, YOHEI, I MEAN ...
BULLY, YOU SAY ...!?
I SOMETIMES TAKE HER TOOL BOX THOUGH
NO! I WOULDN'T BULLY HER THAT MUCH!
UME-KICHI, DID YOU ...?
IT CAN'T BE!

FLOAT.
ふわり。
SHINOBU, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
IT WAS YOU, AFTER ALL ...

THE CAT FROM THE TRANSOM?

W... WAIT!
COME BACK TO THE TRANSOM!

PLOP...
ふわ
ARGH!

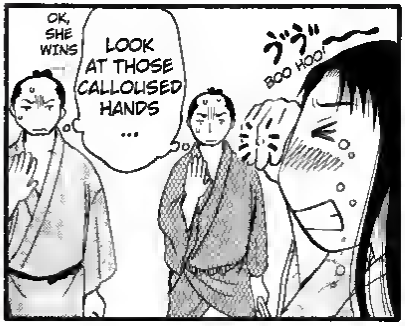

UMEKICHI, YONEZOU ... LET'S CATCH IT.
AHH ...
AH! I CAN'T REACH!
HEY ...!
JUMP ぴょん
JUMP ぴょん

WAIT!
GAH!
HA!
HYA!!
STAY STILL!
THAT CAT IS FLYING!
SOMETIMES CATS FLY THROUGH THE SKY TOO, YOU KNOW.
REALLY ...?
HEY, WAIT!
HYA!

HA! はぁ
HA! はぁ
WHAT IS THAT THING?
PUFF! ぜぇ
HUFF! ぜぇ
ぺたんっ
SLUMP!
DOES IT WANT TO PLAY WITH US?
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG!?
WAIT!
...

YOU IDIOT! WHY ARE YOU CRYING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
BUT UMEKICHI .....
うぇ BOO HOO!
YOU NEVER CRIED ANY OF THE TIMES I PICKED ON YOU UNTIL NOW!

DRIP
DRI


OK, SHE WINS
LOOK AT THOSE CALLOUSED HANDS ...
ぐず BOO HOO!

WE'LL DEFINITELY CATCH IT!
SHINOBU, YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP.
THAT'S RIGHT!

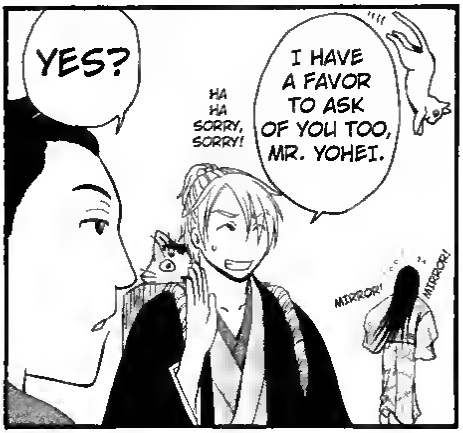
IF IT GETS AWAY LIKE THIS ...
THEN I'LL BE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR MR. KOINO, WHO WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...
AS WELL AS THE MASTER, AND EVERYONE ELSE!

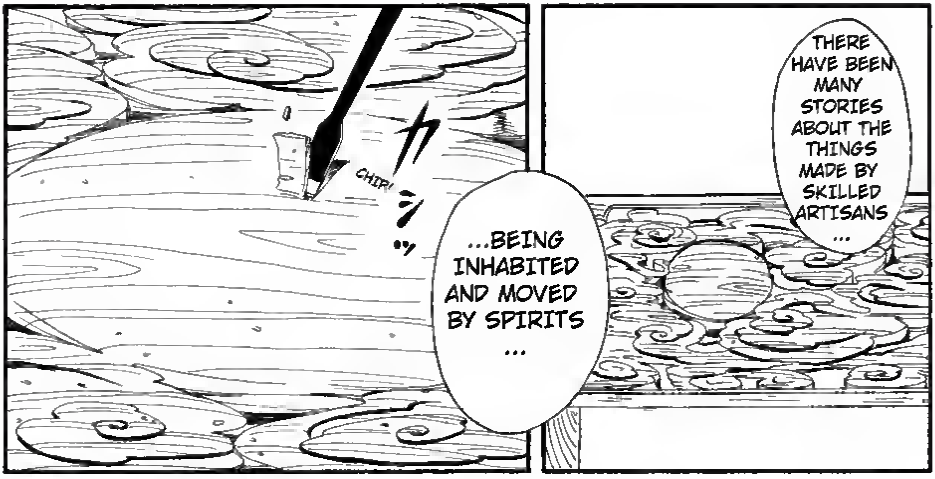
HEY! DON'T RUN AWAY!
THERE'S A NICE MOON TONIGHT.
ぬっ
CREEP...
EEK!!
HEY! GET DOWN HERE!
THANK US...
ぜえ HUFF!
くっ DAMN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYBODY!
BOO HOO!
ぜえっ PUFF!
LATER!

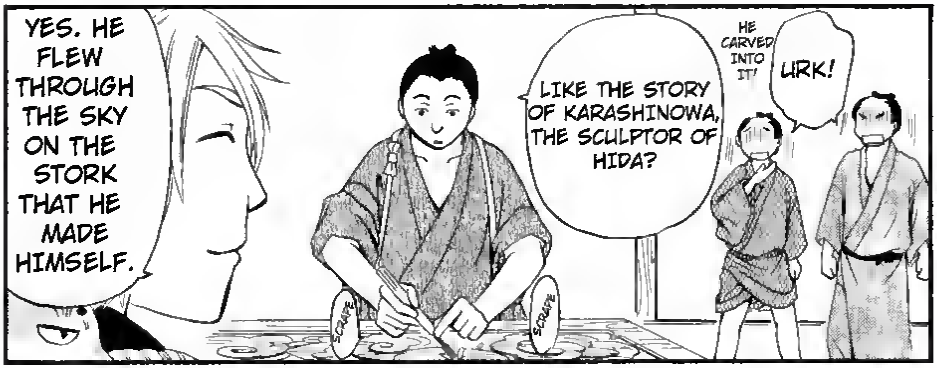
MISS SHINOBU, DO YOU HAVE A MIRROR?
YES!
MR. JU... JUBEI!
ふぅん
HMM... IS THAT THE CAT FROM THE TRANSOM?

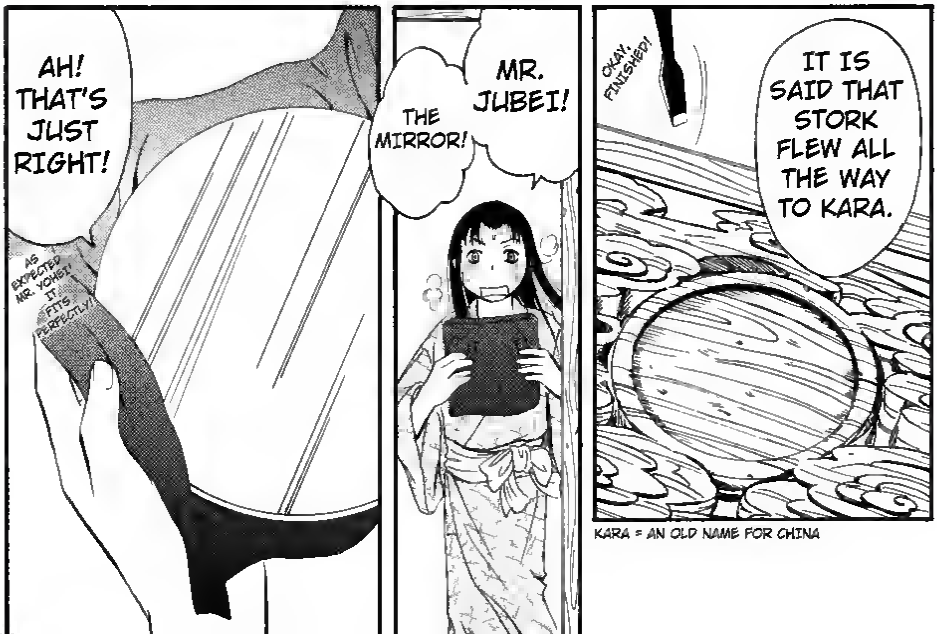
DON'T TOUCH OUR JUNIOR APPRENTICE SO MUCH.
THERE, THERE
QUICKLY, GO AND GET THE MIRROR.
DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY.

SINCE LONG AGO ...


YES?
HA HA SORRY, SORRY!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU TOO, MR. YOHEI.
MIRROR!
MIRROR!

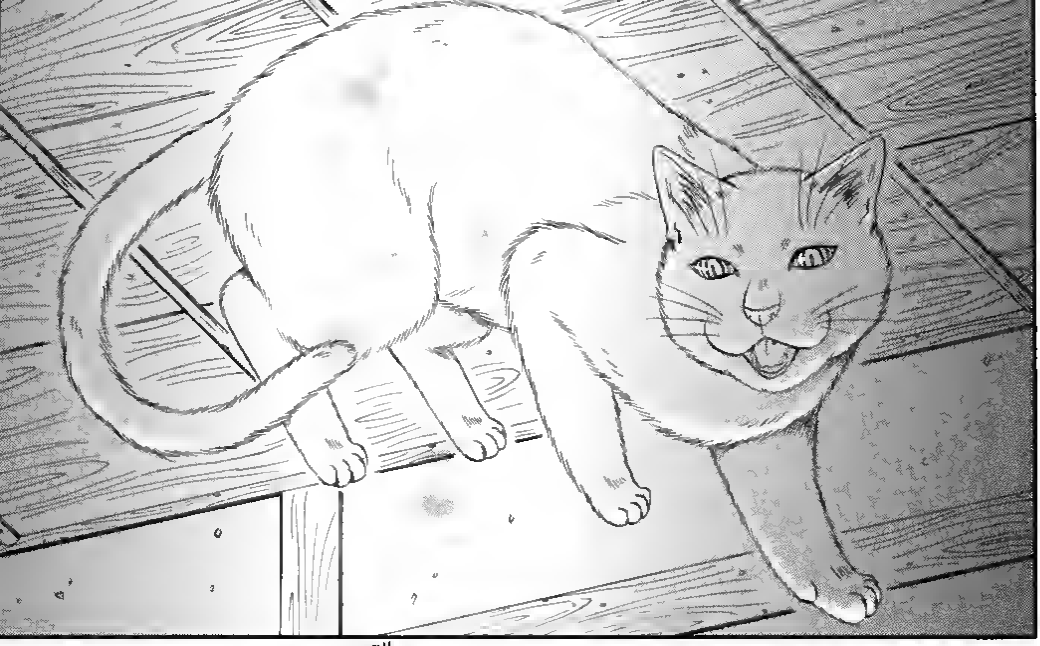



YES. HE FLEW THROUGH THE SKY ON THE STORK THAT HE MADE HIMSELF.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
LIKE THE STORY OF KARASHINOWA, THE SCULPTOR OF HIDA?
HE CARVED INTO IT!
LIRK!

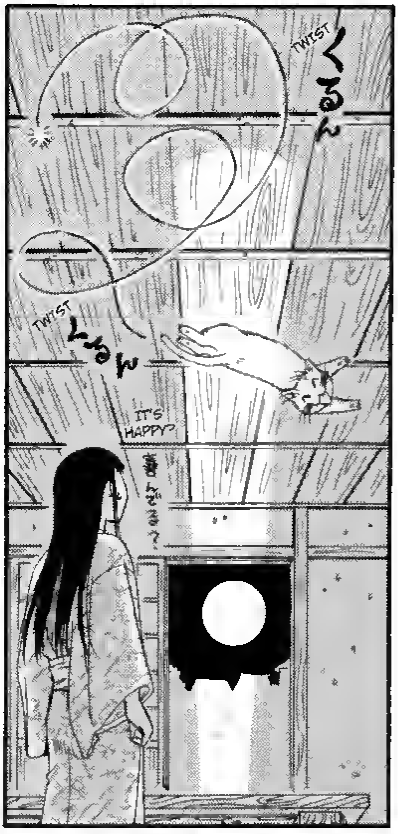

AH! THAT'S JUST RIGHT!
AS EXPECTED MR. YOHEI! IT FITS PERFECTLY!
MR. JUBEI!
THE MIRROR!
OKAY, FINISHED!
IT IS SAID THAT STORK FLEW ALL THE WAY TO KARA.

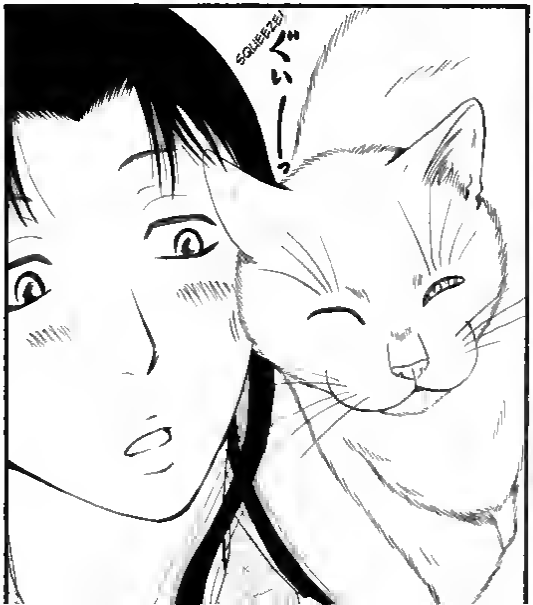
KARA = AN OLD NAME FOR CHINA

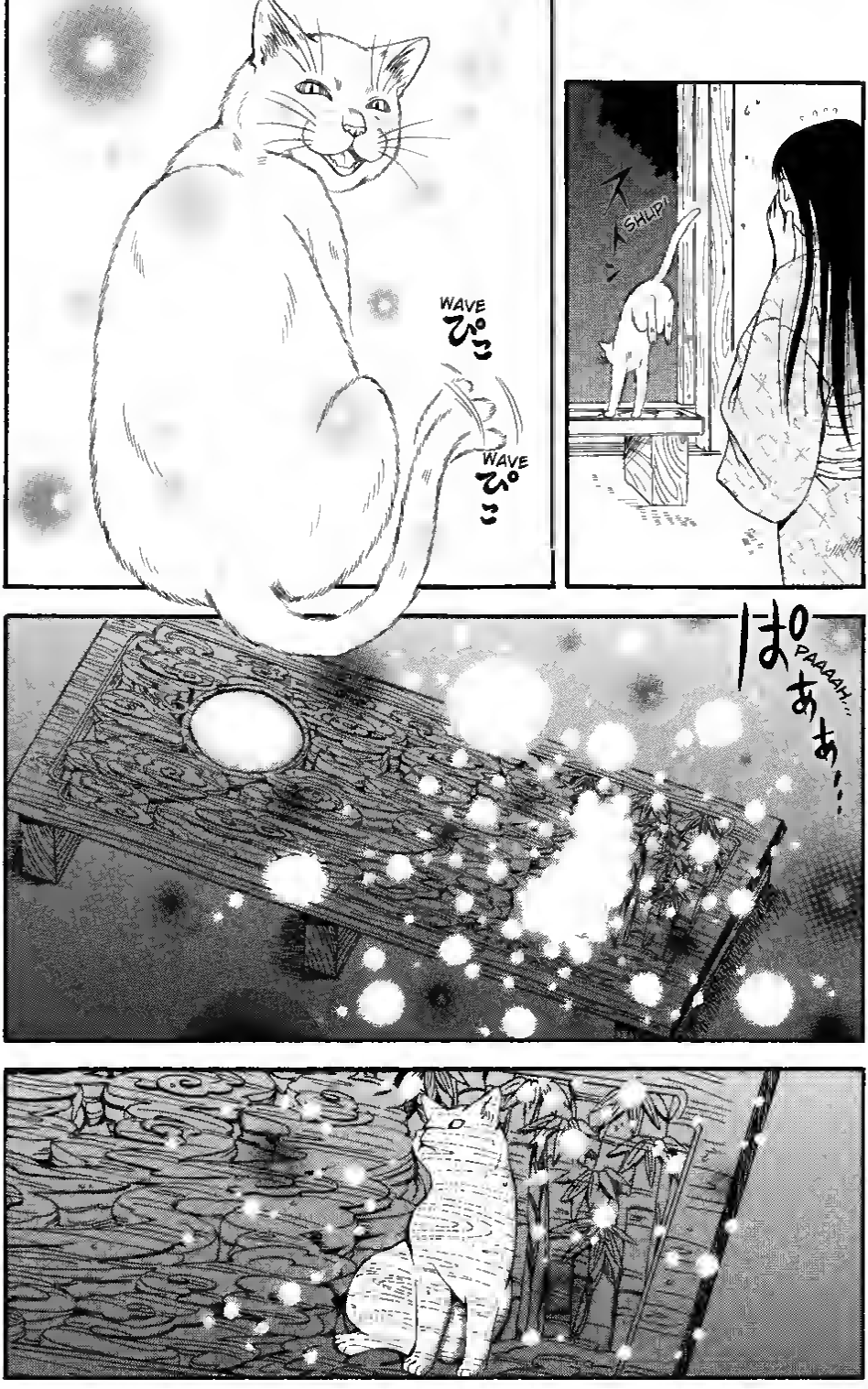
CLICK
THE MIRROR ...
THE MOON-LIGHT!



SWOOSH!
ふぇっ
HUH!?

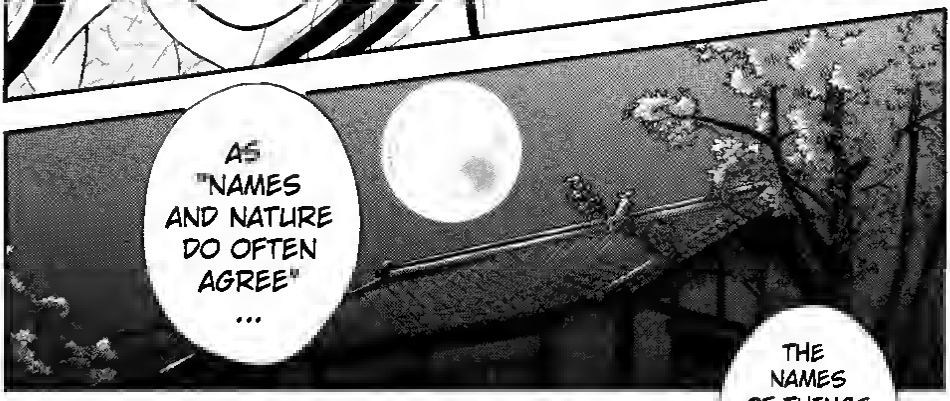

TWIST
TWIST
IT'S HAPPY?

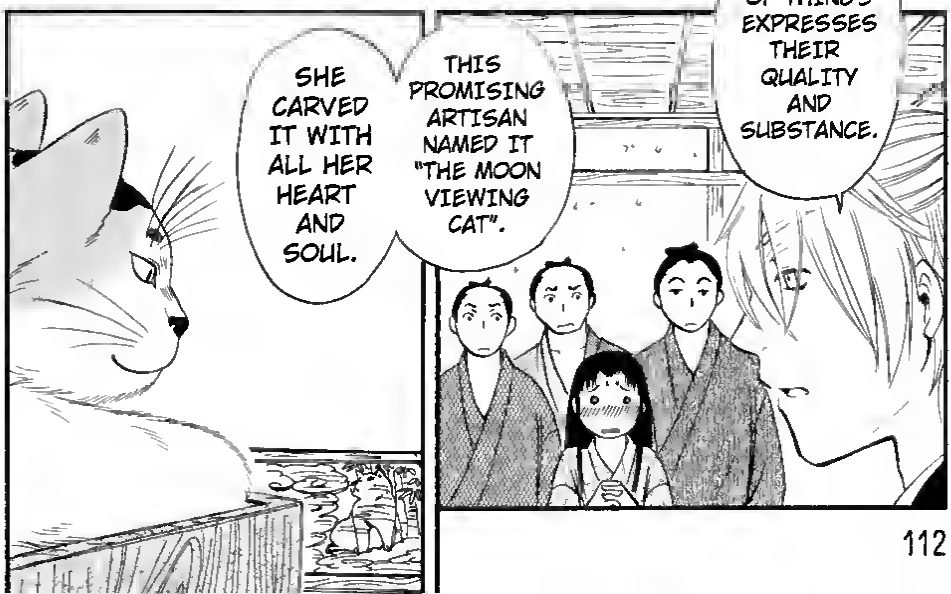

SQUEEZE!


WAVE
ぴこ
WAVE
ぴこ
スルン
SHLIP!
はぁ
あぁ!!
PAAAAH...

OH ...
IT ...
CAME BACK ...
IT TURNED BACK INTO WOOD ...
TAP
TAP
WELL, THAT'S SIMPLE.
UH-HUH? UH-HUH?
THANK YOU MR. JUBEI!
WE DID IT!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL
BUT WHY DID IT COME BACK?

PHEW
ホッ


AS "NAMES AND NATURE DO OFTEN AGREE" ...


THE NAMES OF THINGS EXPRESSES THEIR QUALITY AND SUBSTANCE.
THIS PROMISING ARTISAN NAMED IT "THE MOON VIEWING CAT".
SHE CARVED IT WITH ALL HER HEART AND SOUL.

SO IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT IT WOULD BECOME A CAT THAT LOVES THE MOONLIGHT.
THAT'S WHY WE FITTED THE MIRROR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MOON.
へぇ～
AHHH...
WELL, I COULD ALSO SAY ...
WHEN THE WOODEN CAT SAW THE WOODEN MOON, IT DIDN'T ACCEPT IT AS THE REAL MOON. THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR SKILLS ARE STILL INSUFFICIENT.
INSU ...

YES, I'M SORRY! I'LL WORK HARD!
I'M SO ASHAMED!
EEK!
OH NO
UH ...
GIGGLE
GO AHEAD, BECOME EVEN MORE DILIGENT.
YOU'LL BECOME A GREAT ARTISAN, OKAY? OKAY?
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A CRY-BABY TODAY ...!
OOHOO!
I'M SO SORRY, EVERYONE! I CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE!
WIGGLE WIGGLE
YES ...
YOU'LL BE FINE!

UM... MR. KOINO, THIS TIME THERE'S A MIRROR UH...
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP
WELL THEN, UNTIL NEXT TIME
SEE YOU!
IT'S SO AMAZING!
THIS IS EXTRAORDI-NARY, EXTRAORDI-NARY!
NO, NOT AT ALL!
IT IS?
I LOVE IT!
6

第九話 完
END OF CHAPTER 9

TALES OF A
CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

御伽草紙

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

猫の王の巻

THE
KING OF CATS

SIGN:
CAT PICTURES
JUBEI

THE MAPLE LEAVES HAVE CHANGED COLOR COMPLETELY.
TWIRL
TWIRL

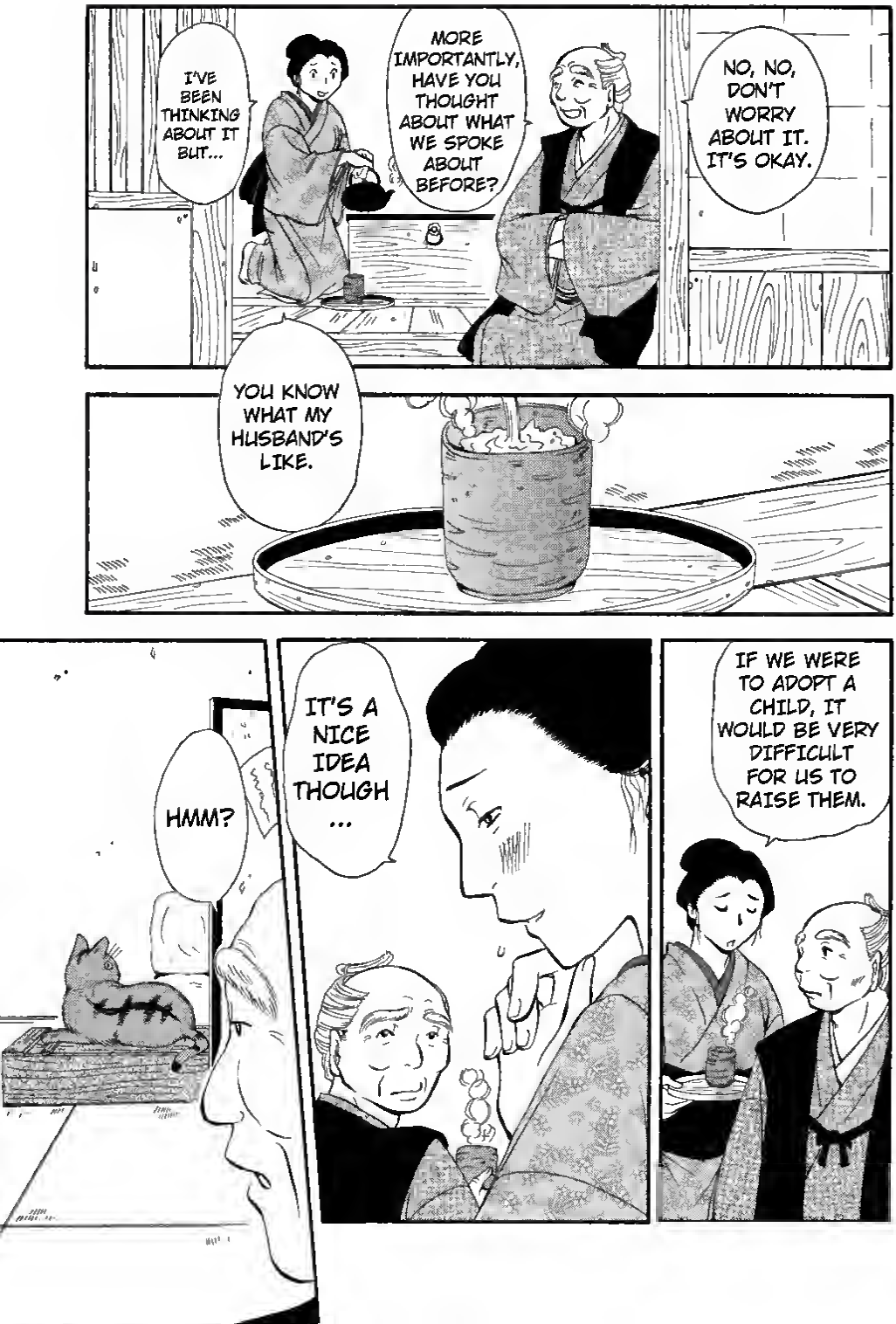
HEY, NITA, I DON'T REALLY CARE, SO GO BY YOURSELF! BY YOURSELF!
YOU COULD JUST FLY TO KYOTO IF YOU WANTED.
DON'T YOU THINK, JUBEI?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WANTED TO SEE THE AUTUMNAL COLORS OF MOUNT TAKAO.
WHY YOU ...!
BANG!

I'M JUST GOING TO PAWN IT FOR A WHILE.
I'LL GET IT BACK SOON.
I TOLD YOU IT'S GOING TO GET COLDER FROM NOW ON, SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE KAIMAKI!?

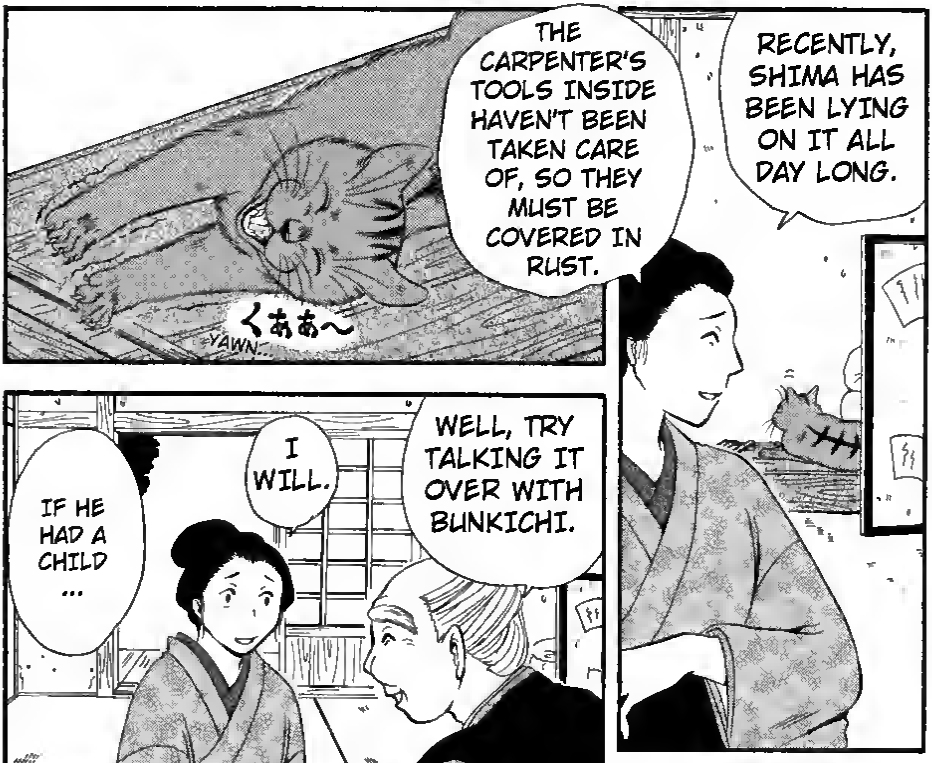
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT! BUT YOU NEVER BRING THINGS BACK, DO YOU?
HUH!?

OKURA ...

DAMN IT!
FORGIVE ME!
I'M SORRY!
I'LL GET TWICE AS MUCH FOR IT!
PAH!
ばっ
WE DON'T NEED TWICE AS MUCH FOR THE KAIMAKI!
WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO TALK ABOUT!
OKURA, WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, LAND-LORD.
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THE NOISE.
PLEASE, COME IN.
WHAT A LOUSY HUSBAND!

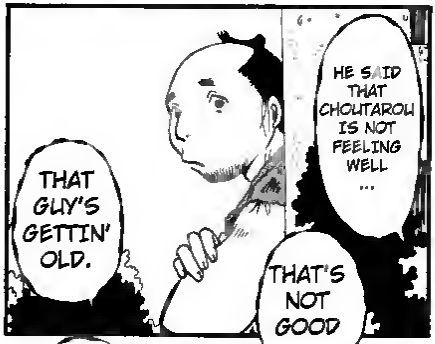

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT BUT...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WE SPOKE ABOUT BEFORE?
NO, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S OKAY.
YOU KNOW WHAT MY HUSBAND'S LIKE.
HMM?
IT'S A NICE IDEA THOUGH ...
IF WE WERE TO ADOPT A CHILD, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO RAISE THEM.

MEOW!
HAS BUNKICHI'S TOOL BOX BECOME A BED FOR THE CAT?


RECENTLY, SHIMA HAS BEEN LYING ON IT ALL DAY LONG.
THE CARPENTER'S TOOLS INSIDE HAVEN'T BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, SO THEY MUST BE COVERED IN RUST.
くぁぁ～
YAWN...
WELL, TRY TALKING IT OVER WITH BUNKICHI.
I WILL.
IF HE HAD A CHILD ...

MEOW !!
..HE MIGHT WASH HIS HANDS OF HIS BAD HABITS.
IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS COME AND SEE ME ANY TIME.
SURE ...
TUSSLE TUSSLE
HA HA
ARE YOU COMFORTING ME?
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT IDIOT, YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.
PURRR

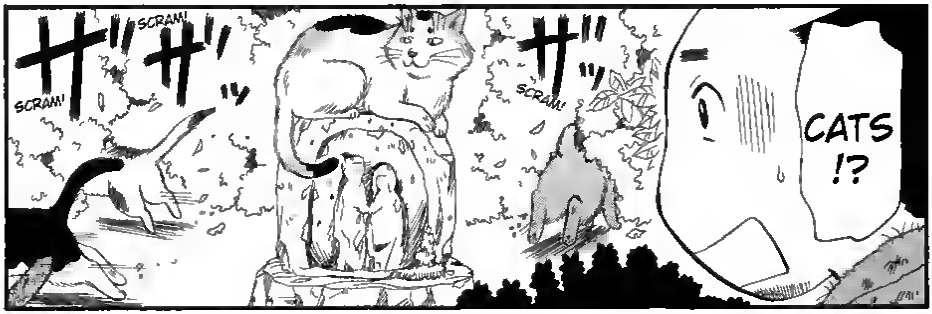
IF I HAD A BODY THAT COULD BEAR A CHILD ...
MAYBE HE NEVER WOULD HAVE STARTED DOING THINGS LIKE THAT ...

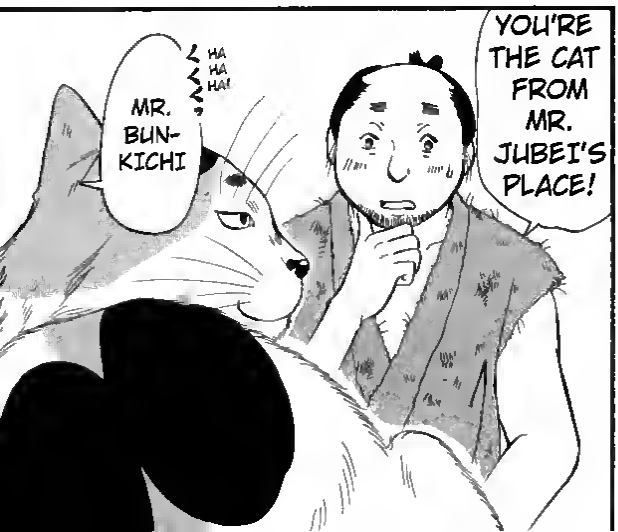

HE SAID THAT CHOUTAROU IS NOT FEELING WELL ...
THAT GUY'S GETTIN' OLD.
THAT'S NOT GOOD ...

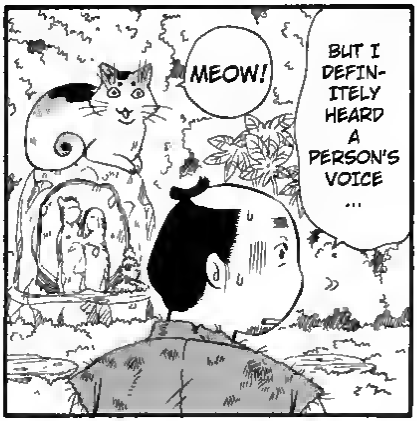
WHY DON'T WE GO VISIT HIM?
BUT THE MOUN-TAIN'S SO FAR..
WHAT !?
RUSTLE!

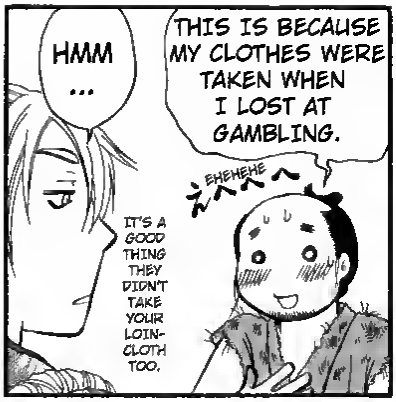
TSK! IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD ...
IT'S COLD
A MESSEN-GER CAME FROM THE MOUN-TAINS ...

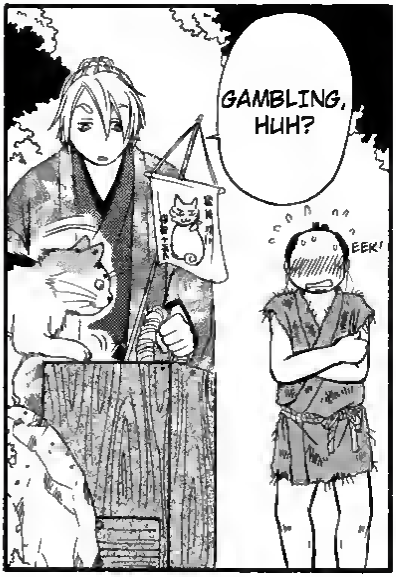
AA... CHOO!


SCRAM!
SCRAM!
SCRAM!
CATS!?

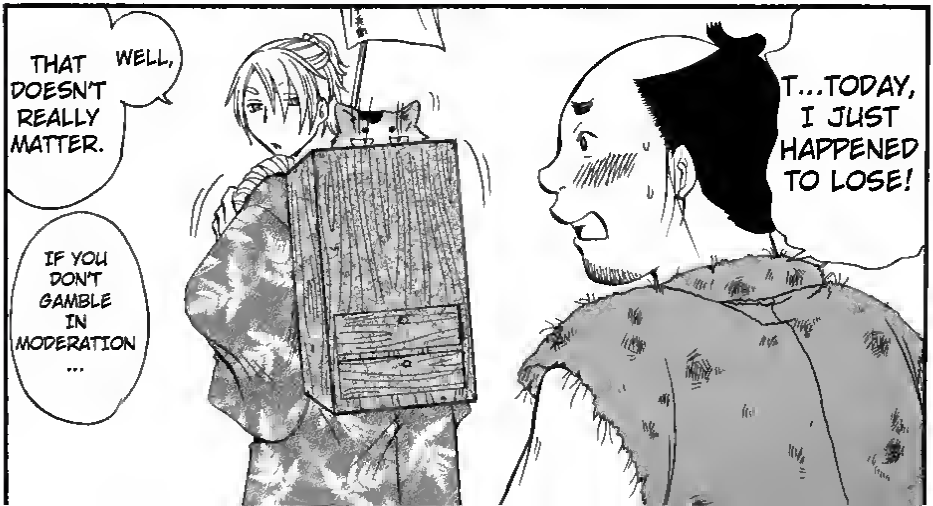

HA HA HA!
MR. BUN-KICHI
YOU'RE THE CAT FROM MR. JUBEI'S PLACE!


MEOW!
BUT I DEFIN-ITELY HEARD A PERSON'S VOICE ...

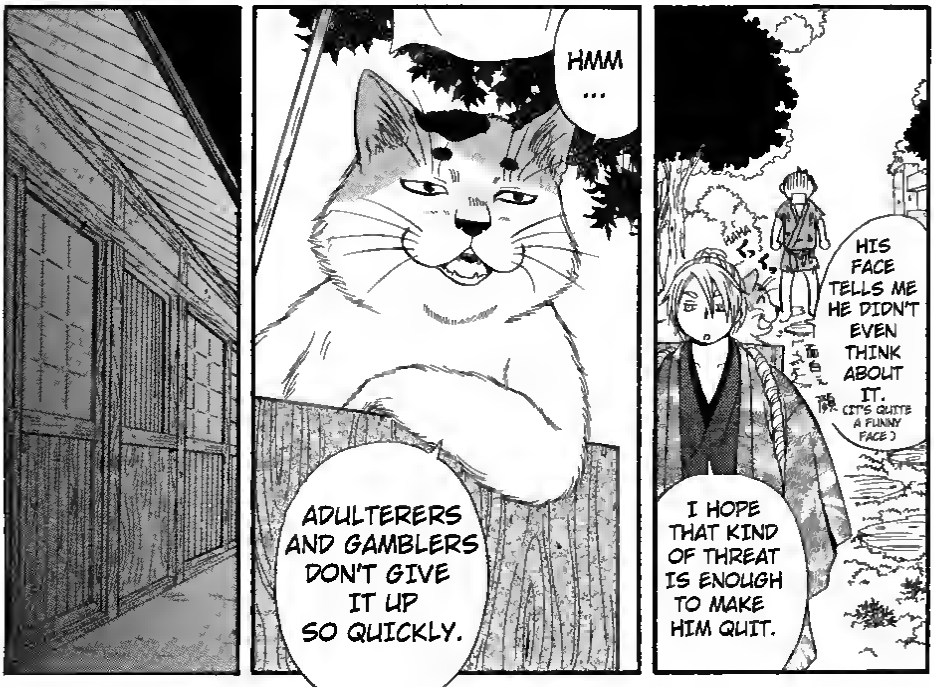

HMM ...
THIS IS BECAUSE MY CLOTHES WERE TAKEN WHEN I LOST AT GAMBLING.
EHEHEHE
IT'S A GOOD THING THEY DIDN'T TAKE YOUR LOIN-CLOTH TOO.

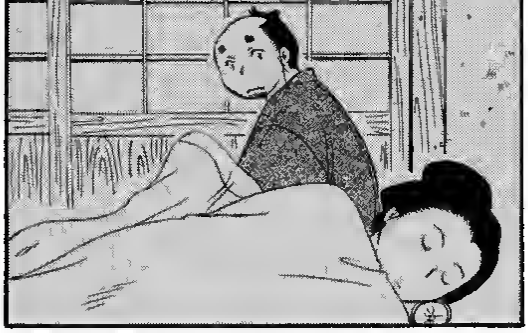

GAMBLING, HUH?
EEK!

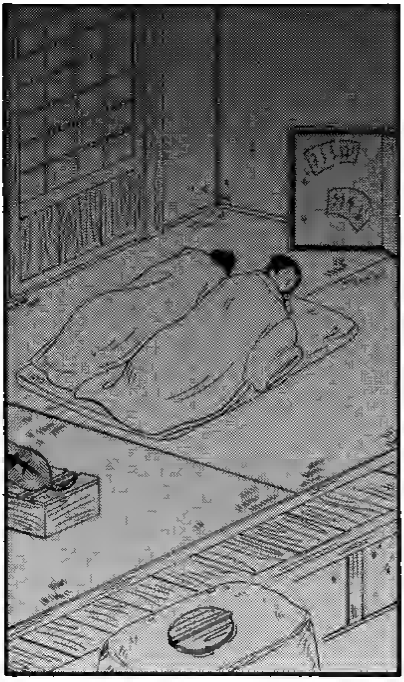
LEAF PEEPING IN SUCH AN OUTFIT?
AH!
HA HA!

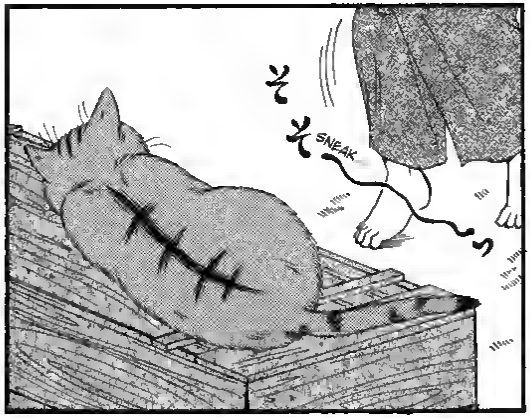

T...TODAY, I JUST HAPPENED TO LOSE!
WELL, THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
IF YOU DON'T GAMBLE IN MODERATION ...

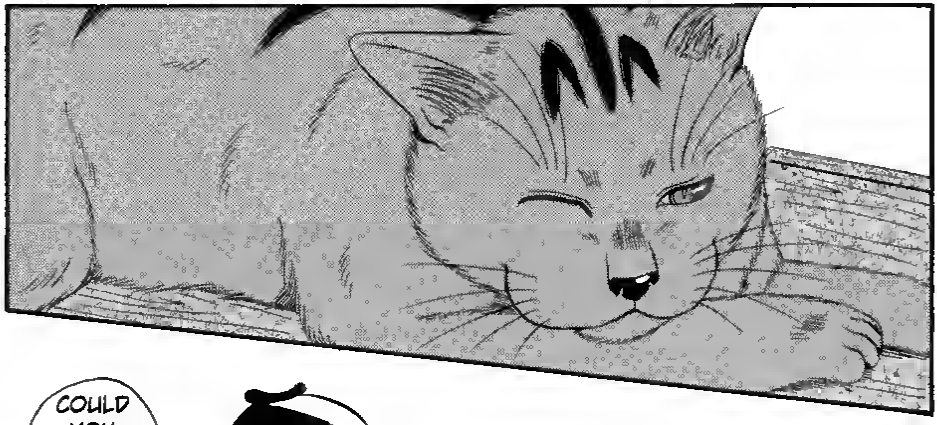
THEN YOU'LL BE DIVORCED.
BY OKURA.
AH! HE FROZE!


HMM ...
ADULTERERS AND GAMBLERS DON'T GIVE IT UP SO QUICKLY.
HIS FACE TELLS ME HE DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
(IT'S QUITE A FUNNY FACE.)
I HOPE THAT KIND OF THREAT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM QUIT.



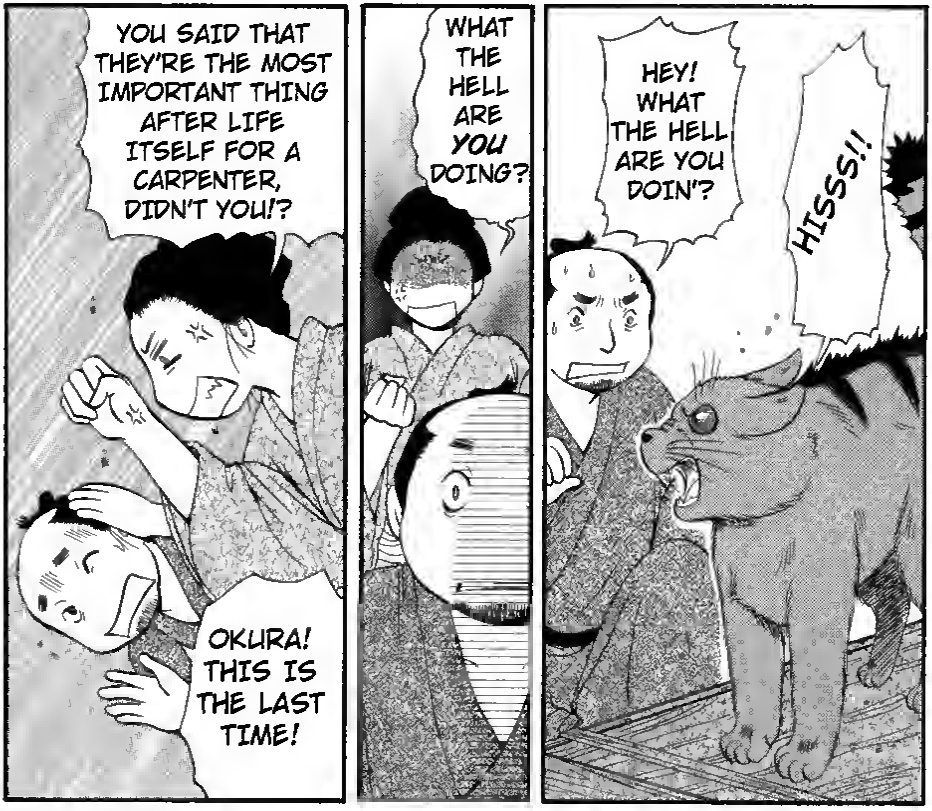



そそ
SNEAK

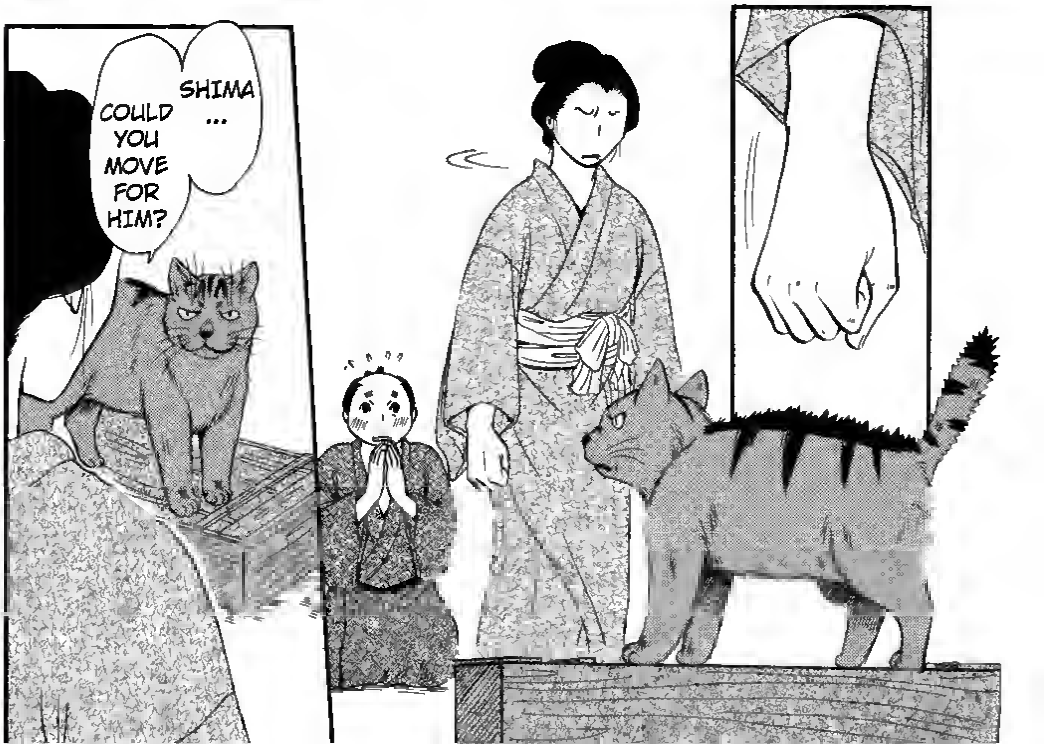


COULD YOU MOVE FROM THERE FOR A MOMENT?
NOW, NOW, SHIMA ...

SCRATCH!
WOAH!
REEEOOOW!!!

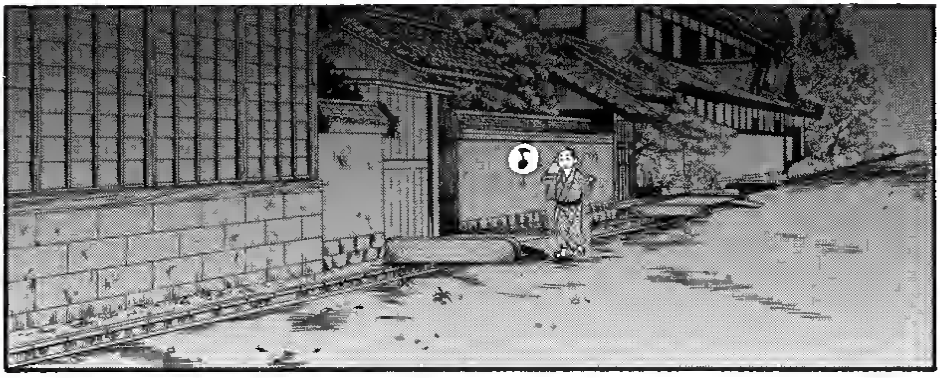

YOU SAID THAT THEY'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AFTER LIFE ITSELF FOR A CARPENTER, DIDN'T YOU!?
OKURA! THIS IS THE LAST TIME!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN'?
HISSS!!

IF I WIN THIS TIME ...
I'LL GET EVERY-THING BACK FROM THE PAWN SHOP!
YEAH? YEAH?


SHIMA ...
COULD YOU MOVE FOR HIM?

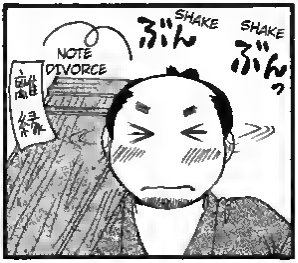
STEP
トン
WAAH!
わっ
TOSS!
ポイ
IS... IT OKAY?
DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
BECAUSE TO YOU ...

...YOUR TOOLBOX, YOUR WIFE...
ARE WORTHLESS TO YOU NOW.
MEOW...
LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
JUST YOU SEE! I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT'LL AMAZE YOU!
DON'T SAY SUCH DEPRESSING THINGS!
HA HA! はは



THAT OKURA! SHE GAVE THIS TO ME SO EASILY!
LA LA!
LA LA!
HEH!

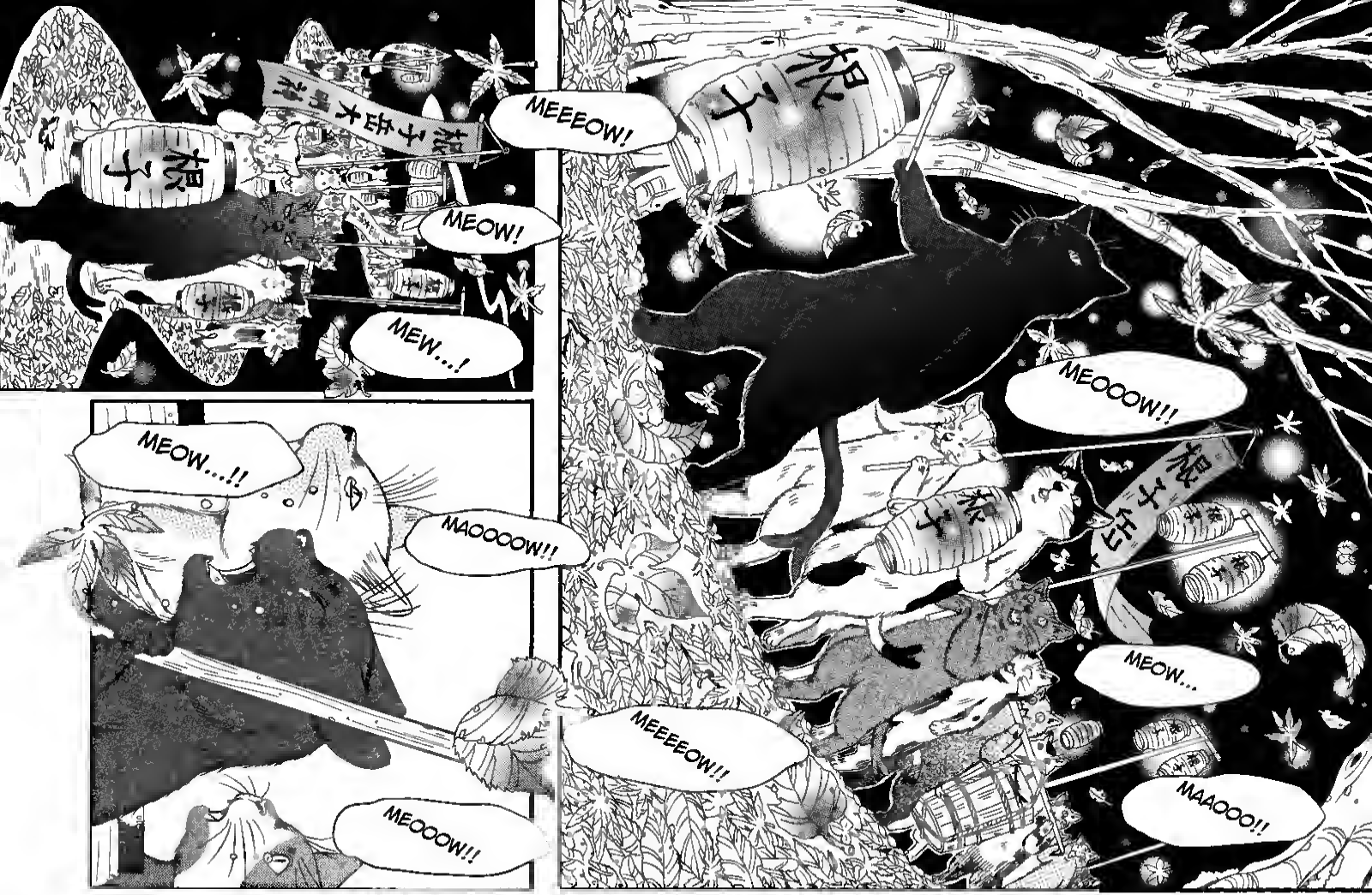
MEOW
MAOW
HMM? CAT'S VOICES?


SHAKE
SHAKE
NOTE DIVORCE

MEOW
GRUNCH
IF I BUY HER A HAIRPIN, SHE'LL SOON CHEER UP!
FLUTTER

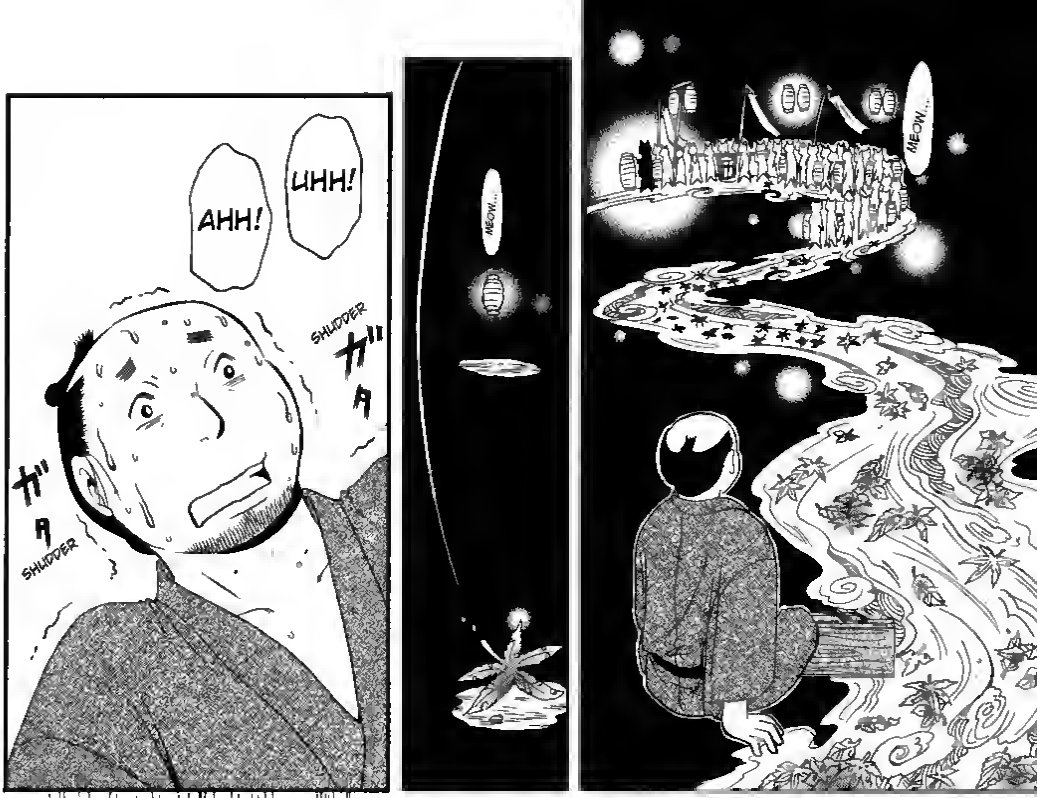
YOU'LL BE DIVORCED.

MEOW...!
CREAK...
MAAOOW!!
CREAK
BANNER: CAT MOUNTAIN GOD
根子岳大明神
MEOOOW!
根子
LANTERN CAT
根
MEOW!
MAAOW!!
LANTERNS' CAT
根子
MEOW...!!
MAOOW!
RRAAOOOW!!
MEOW...

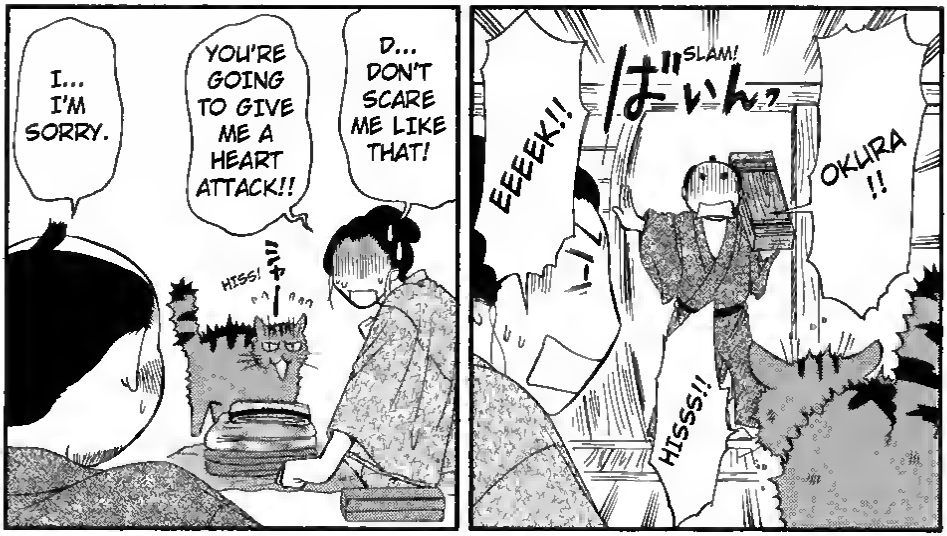

MEEEOW!
MEOW!
MEW...!
MEOW...!!
MAOOOOW!!
MEOOOW!!
MEEEEOW!!
MEOOOW!!
MEOW...
MAAOOO!!

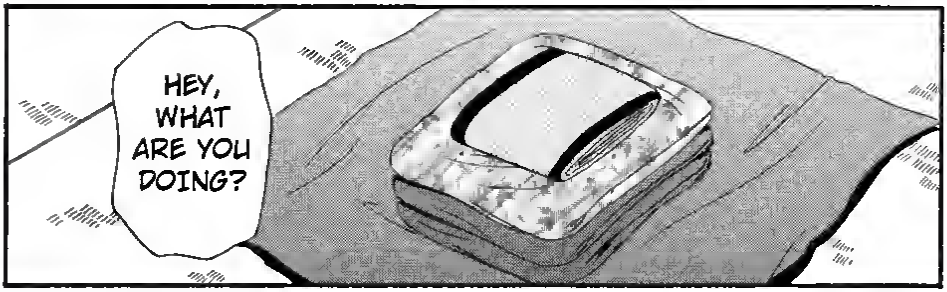
EEK!
ガシャ
CRASH!
WELL THEN ...
EEK! IT SPOKE!
IT IS CERTAIN THAT ...
SOSHOU NEKOMA CHOUTASHIRAO HAS DIED.
PLEASE INFORM SOSHOU NEKOMA CHOUTAROU-SHIMAO.
根子

YOU MUST.
Y...
YES
...
MAOW!!
MEOWWW!
MEEEOW!


AHH!
UHH!
SHUDDER
ガタ
ガタ
SHUDDER
MEOW...
MEOW...

SNIFF
WAAAAH!! THEY'RE MONSTERS !!


I... I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK!!
D... DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
HISS!
EEEEK!!
ばぃん
SLAM!
OKUDA!!
HISSS!!

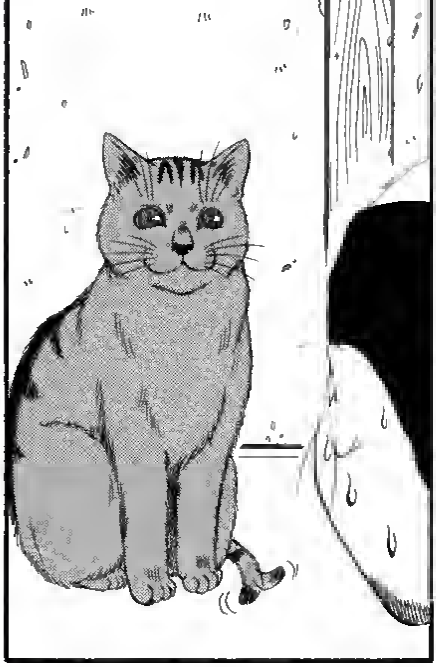

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NEXT TIME ...
...FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE YOU A CHILD.

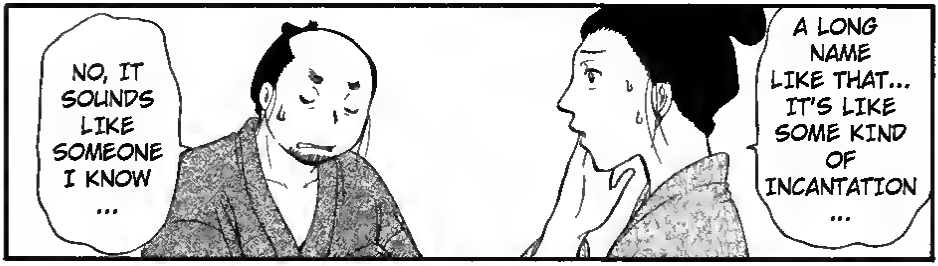
WH... WHY?
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M LEAVING YOU!
YOU KNOW WHY, MORE THAN ANYONE!

IF YOU HAD A CHILD, IT MIGHT CURE YOU OF YOUR GAMBLING ADDICTION.
SHUP!
YOU IDIOT, DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
I WON'T LET MYSELF BE CURED BY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
DON'T GO!
DON'T SAY IT WITH SUCH CONVICTION!
(YOU STUPID HUSBAND!)
IF YOU LEAVE, I'LL CRY...!!
I'LL CRY UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD!!
NO NO NO!
BOO HOO!
YOU... MORON!
TAP!
HUH?
YOU DIDN'T GO TO THE GAMBLING HOUSE?
AH ... UH ...
SNIFF SNIFF
JUST NOW ...

HUH?
MRAAOW!!
ぴくっ
TWITCH!
I CAME ACROSS A CAT FUNERAL PROCE-SSION.
THEN, A BLACK CAT ...
SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOSHOU ...UMM ...SOME LONG NAME...
MMRRAAOOW!!



AH! THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT!
SOSHOU NEKOMA CHOUTAROU--SHIMAO!
MEOW!

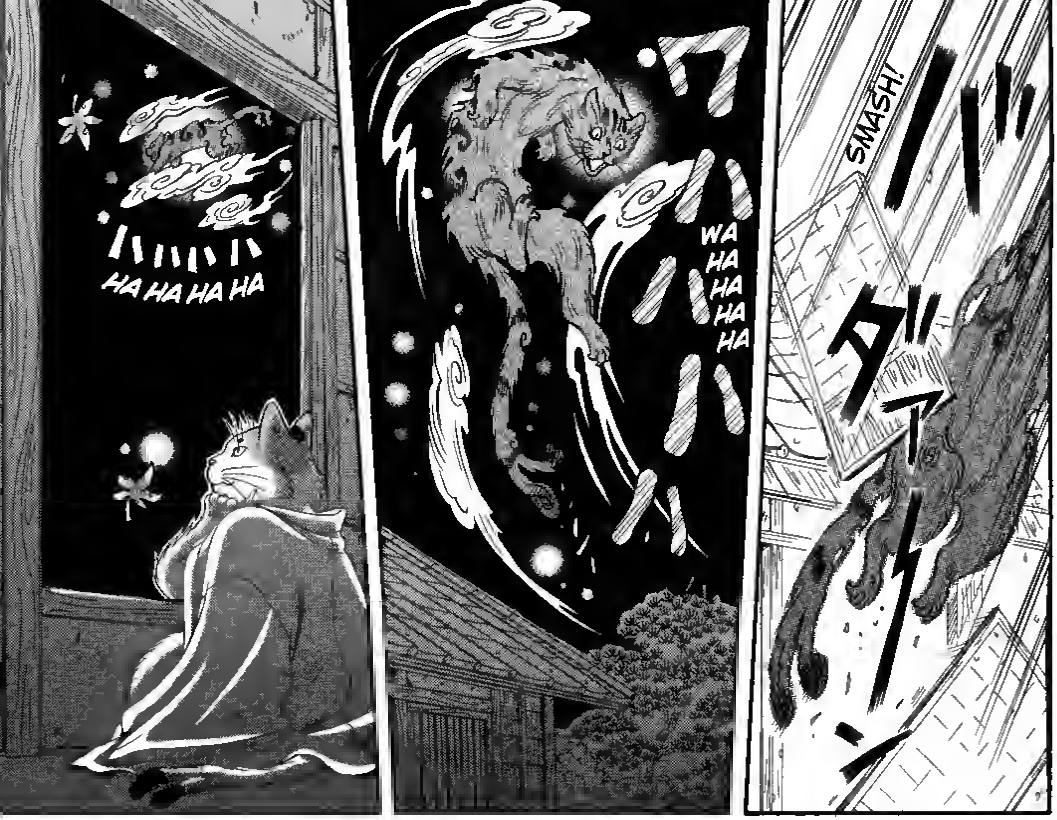

NO, IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW ...
A LONG NAME LIKE THAT... IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF INCANTATION ...

...
THAT PERSON HAS ...

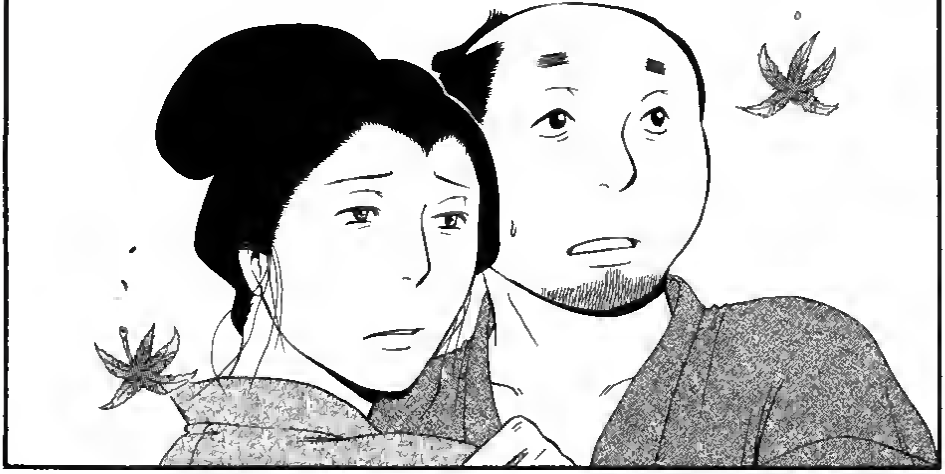
MEOW?
I HAVE TO TELL THAT PERSON THAT SOMETHING SOMETHING CHOUTASHIRAO ...

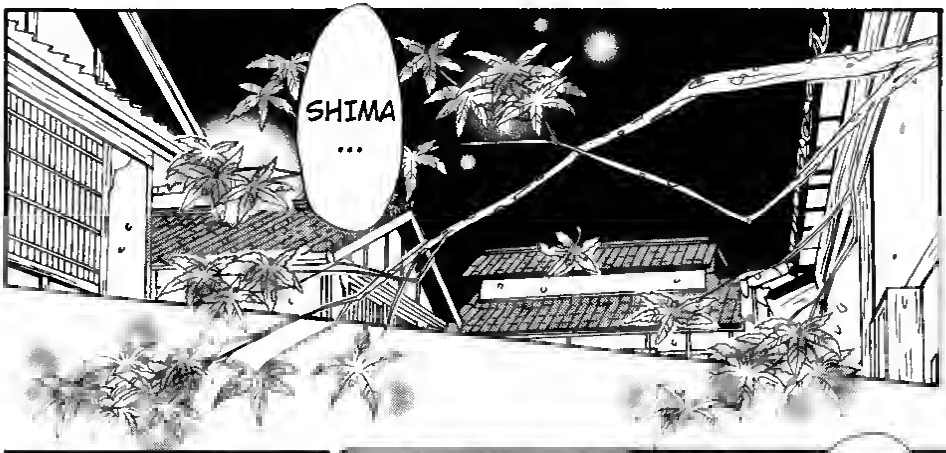
I HAVE TO INFORM THEM THAT PERSON HAS PASSED AWAY.
SHAKE!
SHAKE!
AN ...EARTH-QUAKE!?
SHAKE!
SHAKE!
ARE YOU SURE... IT WASN'T A DREAM?
SHAKE!
WHAT!?
SHAKE!
SHAKE!

THEN I AM ...
CHOUTA IS DEAD!?
ヒューオーオー
WHOOSH!
THE NEXT KING OF CATS!


HA HA HA HA
WA HA HA HA HA
SMASH!

HEH HEH!
THE NEW KING OF CATS ...
HE HAS BEGUN HIS JOURNEY WITH A BANG.

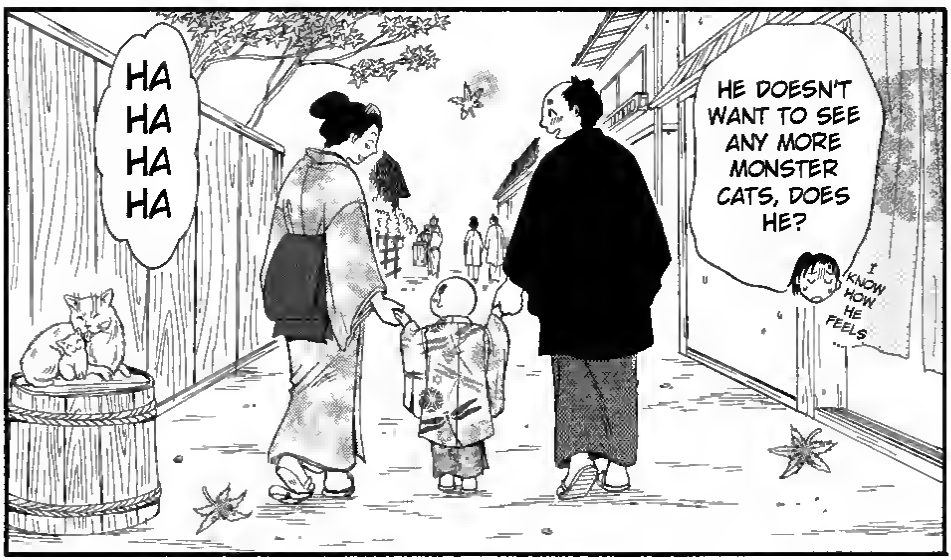



SHIMA
...

HYA HA HA HA!
THAT'S PRETTY TERRIFYING BUT A GOOD STORY
PEOPLE ON THE STREET SAY IT WAS SHIMA'S WAY OF REPAYING THE FAVOR.
CLING CLING

HMM?
THE CHISEL AND SAW IN MR. BUNKICHI'S TOOLBOX WERE SHINING AS IF THEY'D JUST BEEN SHARPENED.
THEN SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS HAPPENED ...

AH ...
THEY ADOPTED A CHILD ...
YEAH ...
WHAT A CUTE KID ..
NEW!
THE BEST WAY TO REPAY THE FAVOR...



第十話 完

END OF CHAPTER 10

TALES OF A
CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

御伽草紙

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

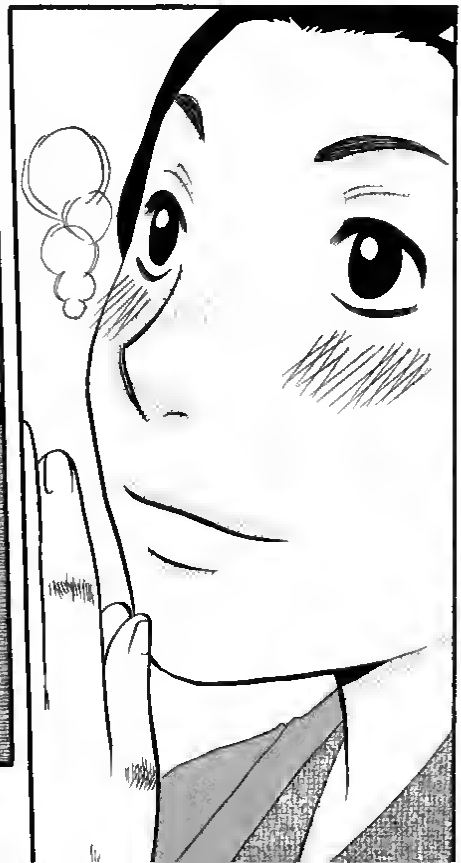
しじみ猫の巻

SHIJIMI CLAM CAT

SWEEP
SWEEP
SWEEP

SWEEP
SWEEP

OKAY!
I'LL DO MY BEST AGAIN TODAY!

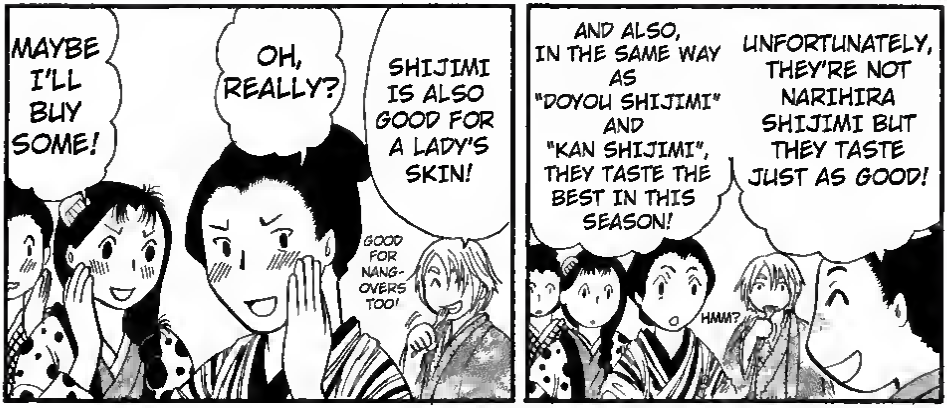


CLAP
CLAP

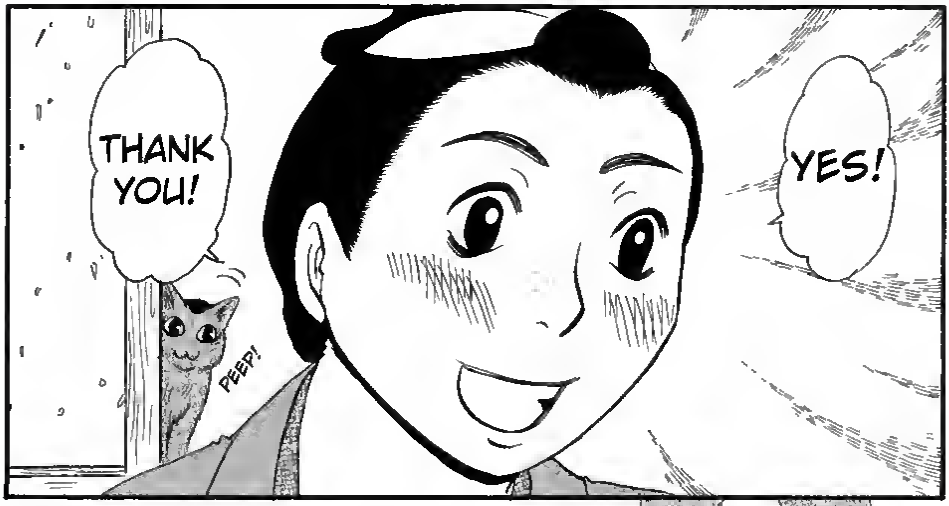
I MAKE THEM SPIT OUT ALL THE SAND, SO THEY DON'T TASTE LIKE MUD!
I CHOOSE THEM ONE BY ONE!
HEH!
MATSU-KICHI'S SHIJIMI IS ALWAYS REALLY GREAT!

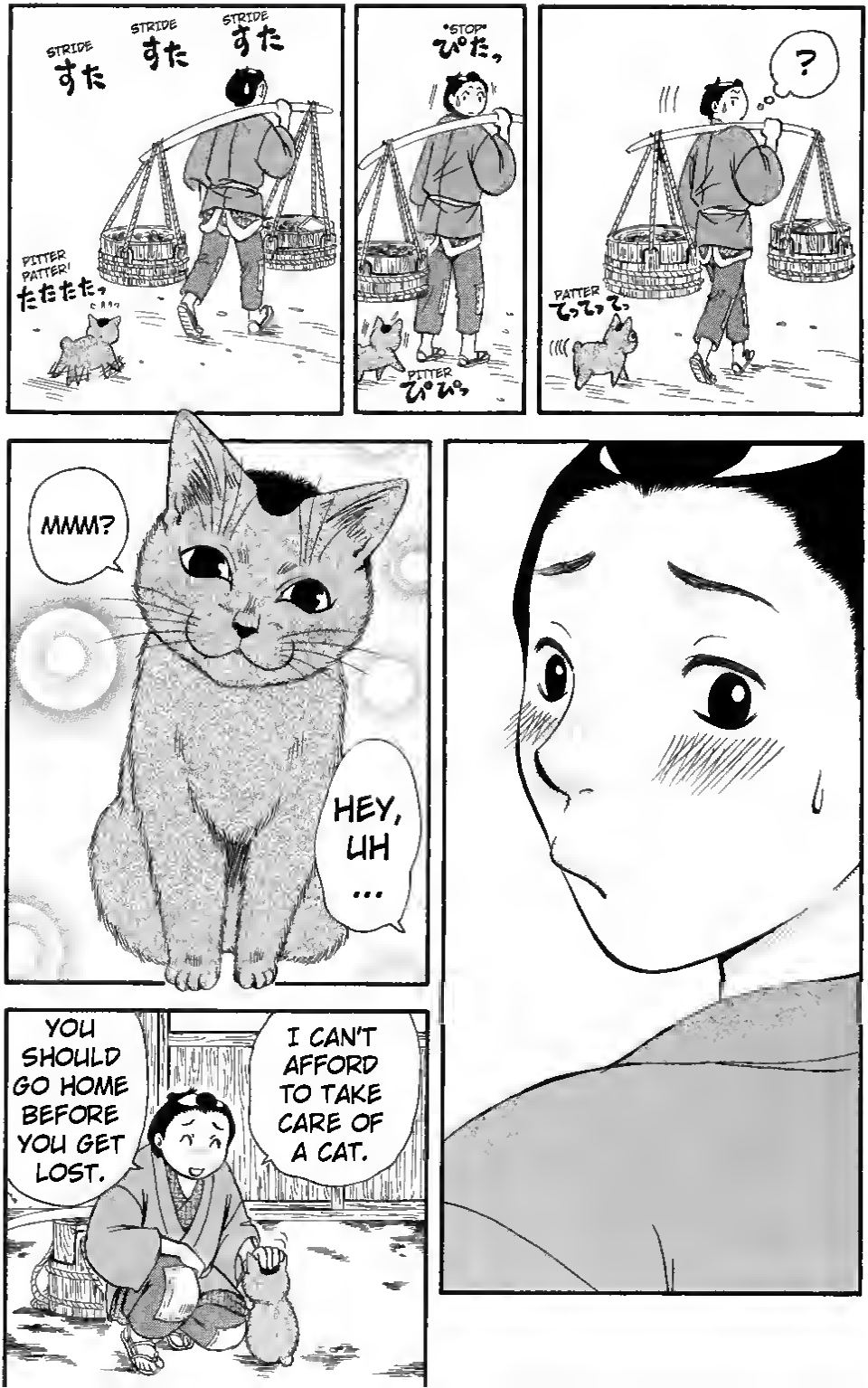
SHIJIMI = A TYPE OF JAPANESE CLAM

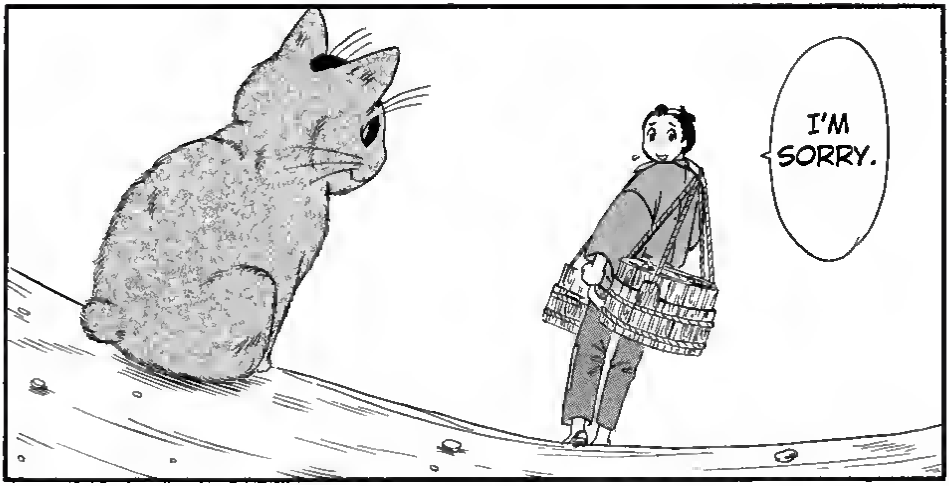
NARIHIRA SHIJIMI = A FAMOUS TYPE OF SHIJIMI FOUND NEAR THE NARIHIRA BRIDGE ON THE SUMIDA RIVER

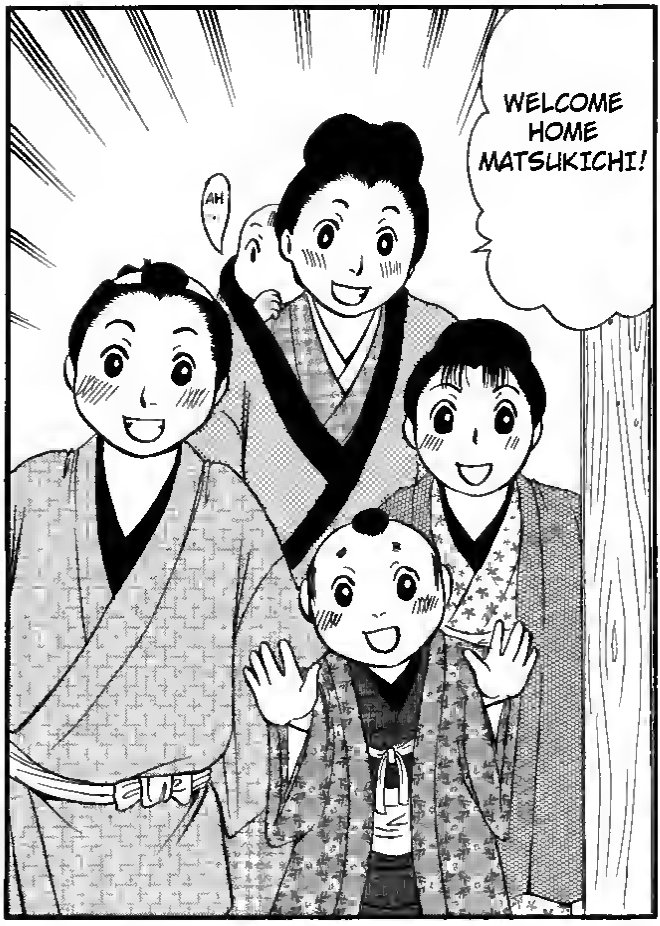

MAYBE I'LL BUY SOME!
OH, REALLY?
SHIJIMI IS ALSO GOOD FOR A LADY'S SKIN!
GOOD FOR NANG-OVERS TOO!
AND ALSO, IN THE SAME WAY AS "DOYOU SHIJIMI" AND "KAN SHIJIMI", THEY TASTE THE BEST IN THIS SEASON!
UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE NOT NARIHIRA SHIJIMI BUT THEY TASTE JUST AS GOOD!
HMM?

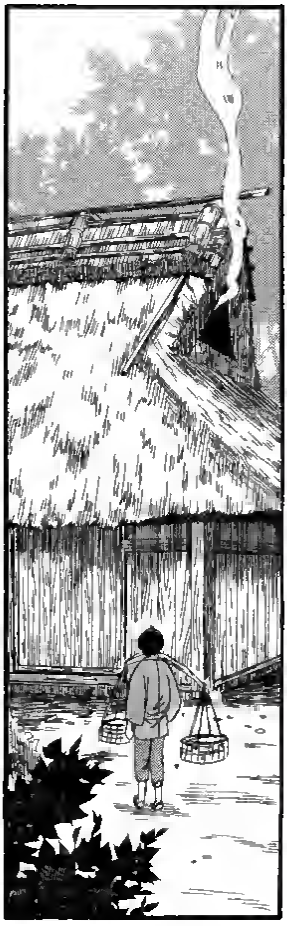
DOYOU SHIJIMI = EATEN IN SUMMER KAN SHIJIMI = EATEN IN WINTER

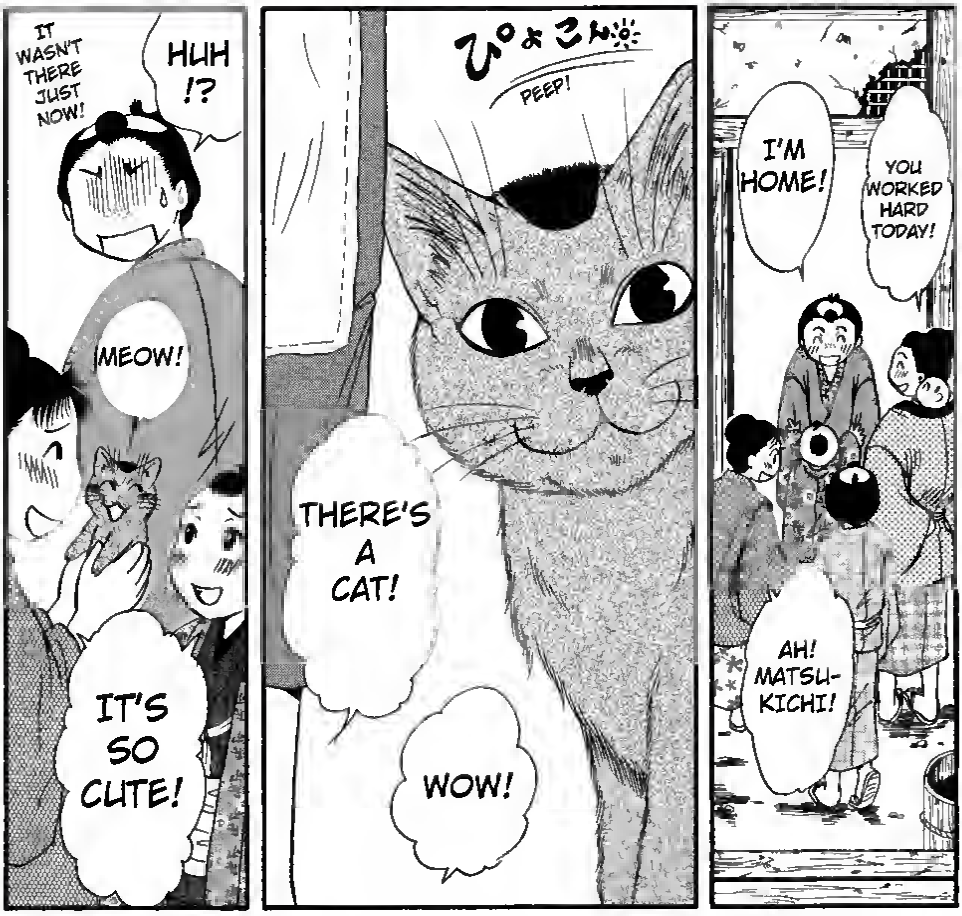



STRIDE すた
STRIDE すた
STRIDE すた
PITTER PATTER! たたたたっ
"STOP" ぴた。
PITTER ぴぴっ
?
PATTER てってってっ
MMM?
HEY, UH ...
YOU SHOULD GO HOME BEFORE YOU GET LOST.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE CARE OF A CAT.

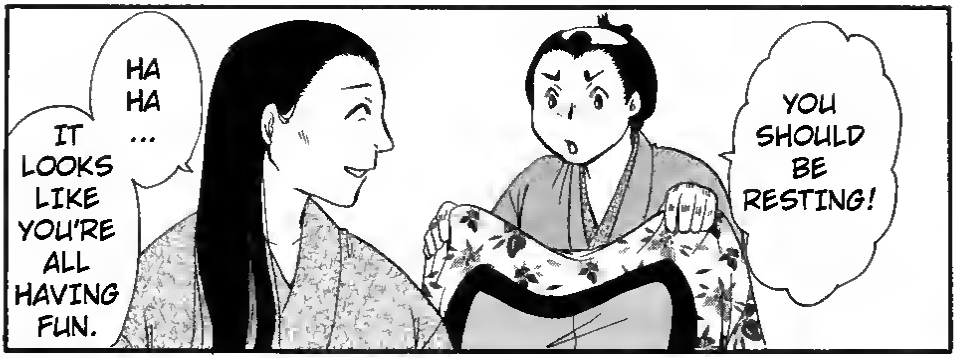

I'M SORRY.

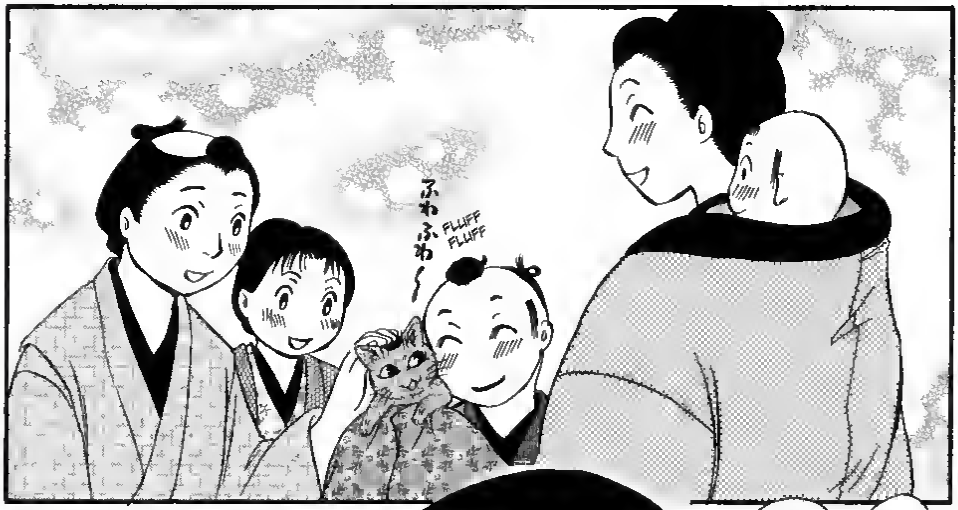

WELCOME HOME MATSUKICHI!
AH!




IT WASN'T THERE JUST NOW!
HUH!?
MEOW!
IT'S SO CUTE!
ぴょこん
PEEP!
THERE'S A CAT!
WOW!
I'M HOME!
YOU WORKED HARD TODAY!
AH! MATSU-KICHI!
HEY! DON'T ARGUE!
BLEURGH!! I'M NOT ASKING YOU, TOKUJI!!
WHAT!?
COME ON, I'LL GIVE HIM HALF OF MY FOOD!
OTAMA! DON'T SAY STUPID THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU'RE PUTTING HIM ON THE SPOT!
HMM?
MATSU-KICHI, CAN WE KEEP HIM?

BUT TOKUJI, YOU SAID THAT THE CAT AT OUR UNCLE'S HOUSE WAS CUTE!
KITTY!
THAT WAS DIFFERENT TO THIS!
CHUCKLE!
OKAY.
EVERYONE, YOU CAN ALL LOOK AFTER HIM TOGETHER, OKAY?
WE WILL!
COUGH!
MEOW!
THANKS, MATSU-KICHI!
MOTHER!
COUGH! COUGH!
WELCOME HOME MATSU-KICHI.

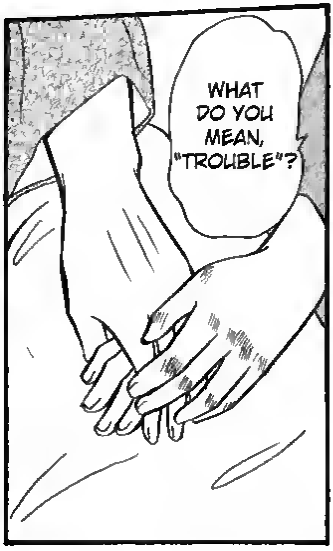

YOU SHOULD BE RESTING!
HA HA ...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL HAVING FUN.


ふわふわ～
FLUFF FLUFF

THOSE KINDS OF FACES ...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME SINCE YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY.
COUGH
YEAH ...
MATSU-KICHI ...

THAT YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE.
I'M SO SORRY ...

I HAVE EVERYONE'S COOPERATION, SO I AM ABLE TO DO BUSINESS WITHOUT WORRY.

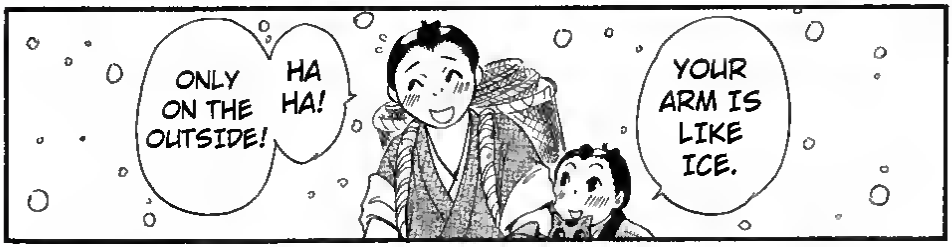

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TROUBLE"?

TOKUJI
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
THIS ONE'S SMALL
CLACK

SHAKE!
SHAKE!

MATSU-KICHI, YOUR JACKET!
LET'S PUT THE LITTLE ONES BACK IN THE RIVER.
I'M MOVING AROUND, SO I'LL STAY WARM. YOU CAN WEAR IT!
PLOP
PLOP
PON!
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO BACK.
MEOW
HAHAHA!
NOT YOU, CHIBI!
CHIBI = SMALL
WHOOSH!
BRR ...
SHIVER
GONG...!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN WILL TURN INTO SNOW!
LET'S GO!
BUT ...
CREAK!

GONG!
ゴオオーン
MATSU-KICHI ...
YEAH?
DRIP
DRIP
SQUEEZE
ぎゅう〜

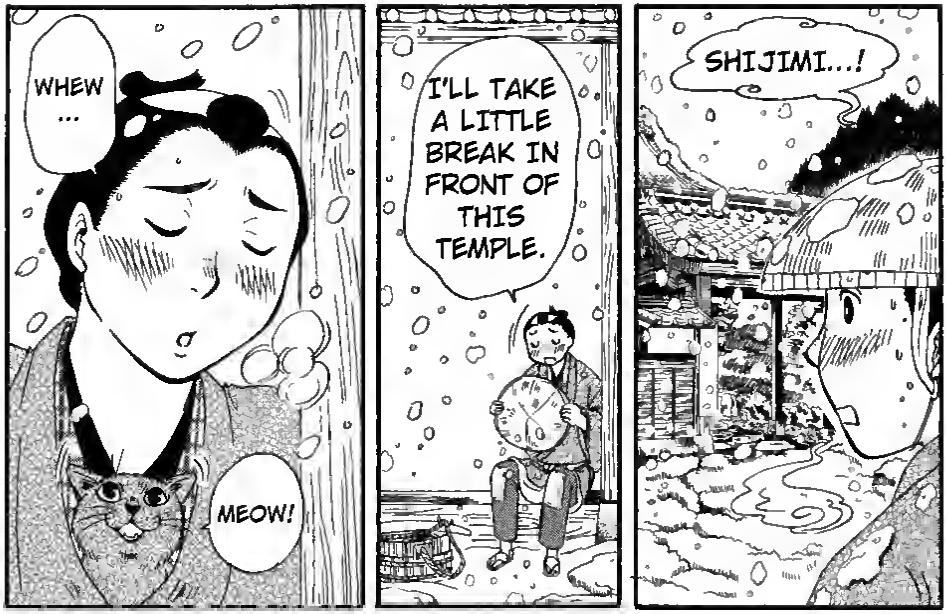

YOUR ARM IS LIKE ICE.
HA HA!
ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE!

MATSU-KICHI ...
YES?
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
ゴ〜ン
GONG...!

MMM ...
BUT MY ARM IS WARM ...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
MEOW!?
CLATTER!
IF IT MAKES A DULL SOUND LIKE THAT, THE CLAM IS SICK, SO WE CAN'T SELL IT.
YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF YOU FOUND ONE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU WERE EATING THEM, WOULD YOU?
ROLL ROLL

I'M GOING OFF TO SELL THEM NOW!
AH, HEY!
RUSTLE ごそ
RUSTLE ごそ
MMM...
MMM...
ALRIGHT THEN... I CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU GET COLD, THOUGH.
SHIJIMI...!
SHIJIMI...!

HAA...
SHIJIMI...!
SHIJIMI...!
HELLO, SIR. DO YOU NEED SOME SHIJIMI?
I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TODAY.
OKAY!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME



KIRIYA = SHOP NAME

THEN THERE'S MOTHER'S MEDICINE ...AND SOME NUTRITIOUS FOOD.
I'LL BUY SOME MISO AND RICE ON THE WAY BACK.
IF I CAN SELL ALL OF THE SHIJIMI TODAY ...
HAAA... はぁー

THEN, I'LL GET SOME MORE SHIJIMI, CHOP SOME FIREWOOD ...
AND IF I HAVE TIME, I'LL MAKE SOME STRAW SANDALS.
I'LL JUST REST FOR A LITTLE LONGER, THEN ...
I'LL WORK HARD ...

MEOOOW MEOW!!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
MEOOOOW!!
MEOW -OW!
MEOW MEOW!
OH.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
MEOW!!
CRUNCH

HEY, WAKE UP!
WARM ...
CAT STONE ...
DID YOU CALL FOR US?
CRUNCH
THE BOY THAT SELLS SHIJIMI.
WOAH! HE'S VERY HOT!
IT'S THAT GUY.
... BIG HANDS
FATHER ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FATHER"?
I'M NOT EVEN MARRIED!
SHI... JIMI ...
YEAH ...

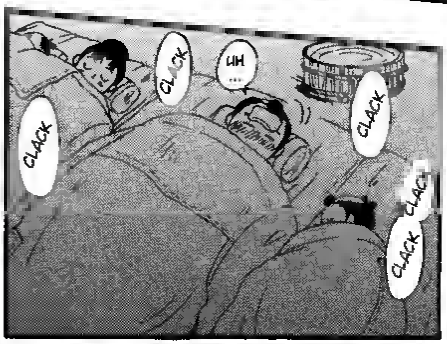
HEY, MATSU-KICHI ...
IT'S GOOD TO WORK HARD.

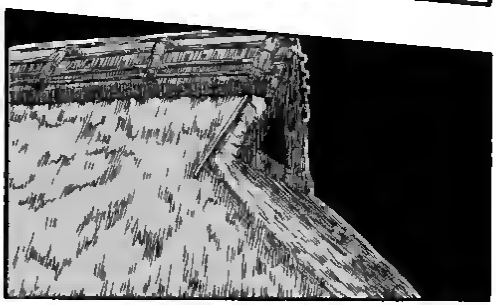
AAA-AAAH!
MATSU-KICHI!!
MATSU-KICHI!!
BUT DON'T OVER DO IT ...

AND MAKE YOUR SIBLINGS CRY ....
I SAY THAT BUT THEY'RE CRYING ANWAY
MATSUKICHI!
わぁぁぁんっ
WAAAAH!!
にいちゃーん
にいちゃーん
MATSUKICHI!

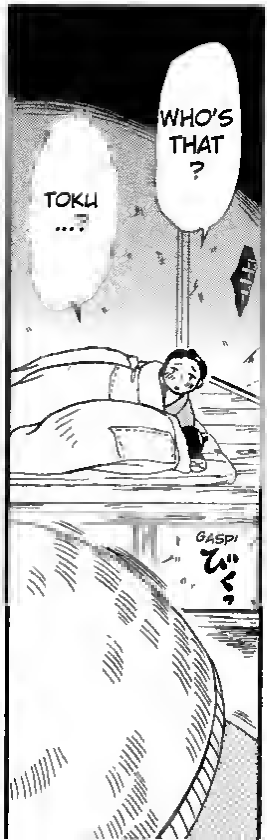
DON'T WORRY.
A REPLACE-MENT IS CONTI-NUING TO SELL THEM.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

MATSU-KICHI!
UHHH...


CLACK
CLICK
UH...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK



DASH!


WHO'S THAT?
TOKU...?
GASP!

RATTLE RATTLE

WHOOOOSH!
WHOOOOSH!
MATSU-KICHI!!
MEOW ?
...
SQUIDGE
SQUIDGE
LOOK, LOOK, MATSU-KICHI!
THE TUB AND CARRYING POLE ARE BY THE DOOR!

THUD
ばた
THUD
ばた
THERE'S MONEY ...!
AND THIS ...
きのうと、きょうのしじみだい。
NOTE: MONEY FOR YESTERDAY AND TODAY'S SHIJIMI
TOKUJI, YOU WENT TO SELL THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH!? I'VE BEEN HERE, IN THE HOUSE.
MEOW!
WELL, WHO ON EARTH WAS IT?
HA HA HA HA
MR JUBEI !!

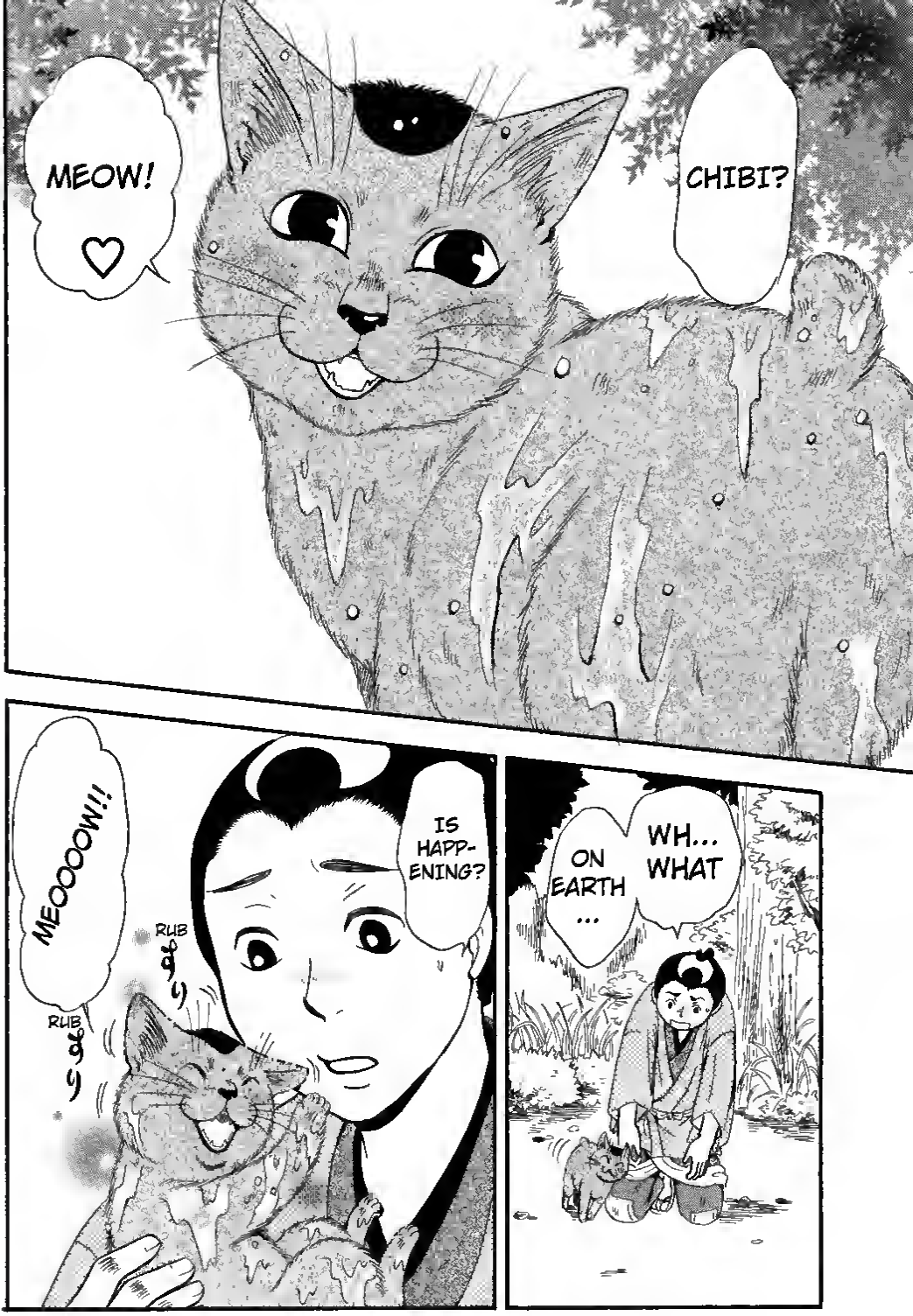
YOU'VE BEEN SELLING THEM THE WHOLE TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
HI, MATSU-KICHI!
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT THE OTHER DAY!
MY COLD IS BETTER NOW, SO I'LL BE COMING ROUND FROM TOMORROW.
THIS IS TO SAY THANK YOU!
OH NO, REALLY, MATSUKICHI?
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
I... I HAVE?
THAT'S RIGHT!
LOOK, I BOUGHT THESE THIS MORNING!
SHAKE
ARE YOU OKAY?
...
AHAHAHA
MAYBE YOU'RE A BIT OUT OF IT BECAUSE OF YOUR COLD?
HUH?
IT'S TRUE THAT MY TOOLS HAVE BEEN VANISHING EVERY DAY
...
AND THE MONEY HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND
...
HUUH!?
WAS IT ME ??
FLAP
FLAP
CALM DOWN MATSUKICHI!

MEOOW...
I'M GOING HOME!
PLEASE BUY FROM ME AGAIN SOON!
MATSUKICHI?
HEY!
SHAKE!
SHAKE!
WHO ...

...ARE YOU?

...DO YOU HAVE THE SAME FACE AS ME?
にこっ
SMILE
WHY ...
くい
RAISE

SPLASH!
STEP!
ブルル
SHAKE
ブルル
SHAKE


MEOW!
CHIBI?
MEOOOW!!
RUB
RUB
IS HAPP-ENING?
WH... WHAT ON EARTH ...

MEOW!
CHIBI
CHIBI
?

CHIBI ...!
CHIBI !!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
WHERE DID HE GO?
GONG...!
MEOW!
CHIBI ...
ハア
GONG...!
ハア

MEOW
WRONG ...!
CHIBI!
YOU'RE GETTING CARRIED AWAY AGAIN.
YOU'VE JUST GOT OVER YOUR COLD!
EVERY TIME YOU DO THAT, "HE" CALLS FOR ME.
HUH?
GONG...!
ゴォォーン
WOULD YOU ... ... LIKE TO MEET HIM?

DEEP INSIDE HERE IS THE ...
CREAK
CLICK
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ...?
CAT STONE!

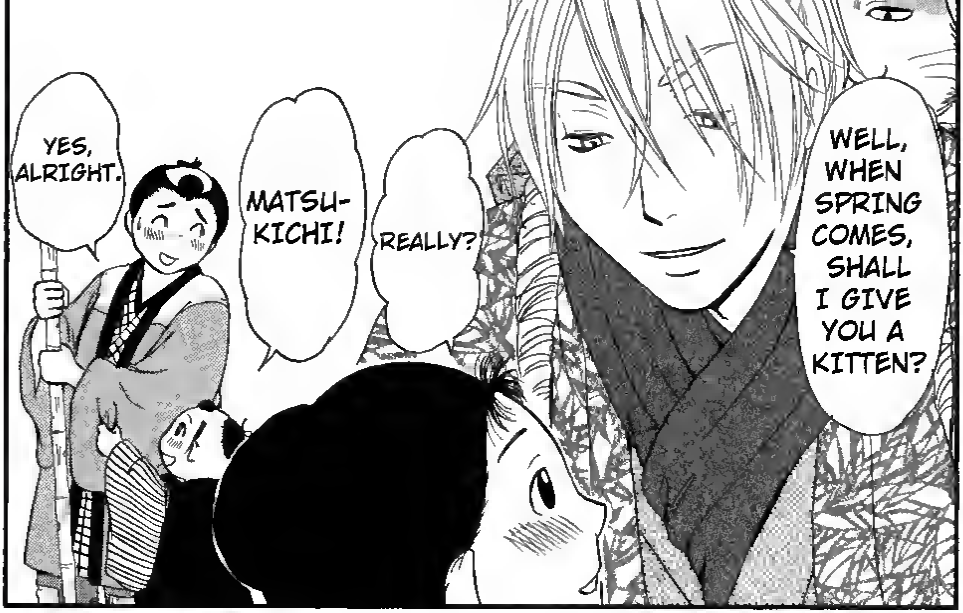
IN THE PAST, THERE WERE FEW CATS IN THIS AREA.
HOUSEHOLDS THAT WERE SUFFERING FROM A MOUSE INFESTATION WOULD BORROW THE STONE AND ENSHRINE IT IN THE HOUSE.
ONCE THE INFESTATION HAD ENDED, THEY WOULD RETURN IT, WITH THANKS, TO THE SHRINE.
PEOPLE CALL IT THE "CAT GOD" OR "CAT KANNON".
CHIBI ...?
KANNON = BUDDHIST GODDESS OF MERCY
WH...
IT WAS SO DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAD BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY, THAT IT WANTED TO THANK YOU.
THAT'S WHY ...
RECENTLY, THAT HASN'T BEEN HAPPENING SO OFTEN.

I...
I FEEL THE SAME ...

YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK ME ...

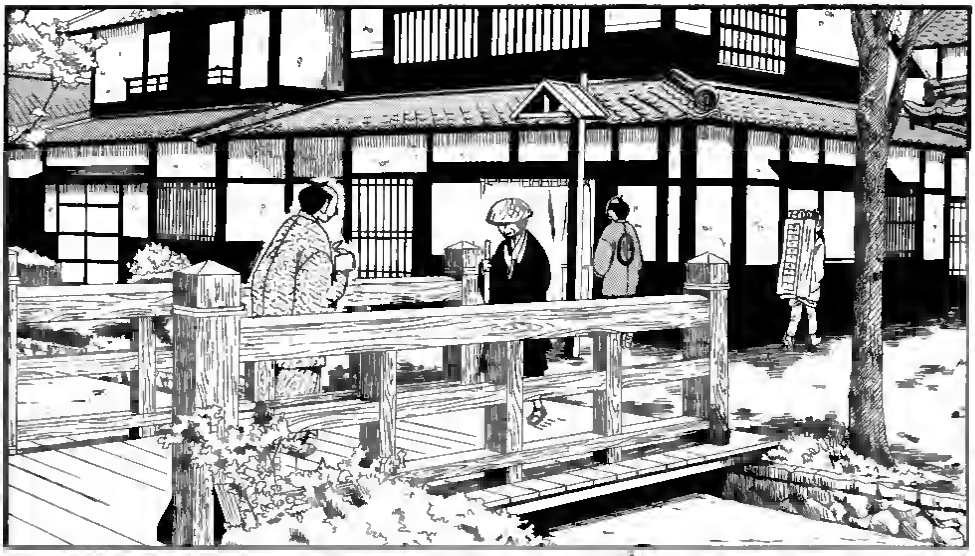
IT MADE ME SO HAPPY ...
JUST BY BEING WITH ME ...

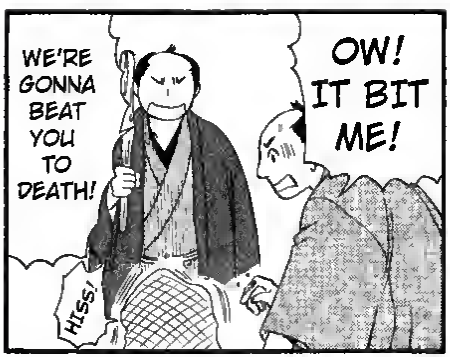
HYA HA HA HA!
HMMM... I DON'T KNOW!
HEY... MR CAT PAINTER? DO YOU KNOW WHERE CHIBI IS?
MATSUKICHI DOESN'T KNOW EITHER!
I'M IMPRESSED!
ALL OF YOUR SIBLINGS ARE CLEANING TOGETHER?
AH, YES!



第十一話 完

END OF CHAPTER 11



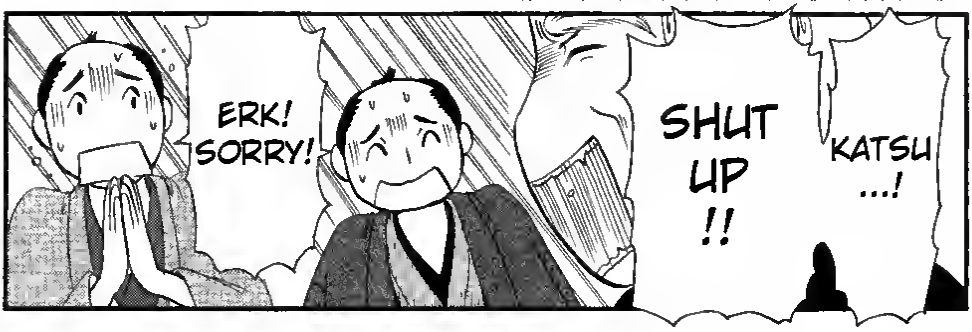

WE'RE GONNA BEAT YOU TO DEATH!
OW! IT BIT ME!
HISS!

BUT THIS THING IS DEFINITELY A MONSTER!
MASTER KEIAN!
DO NOT KILL SO NEED-LESSLY!
YOU THERE!

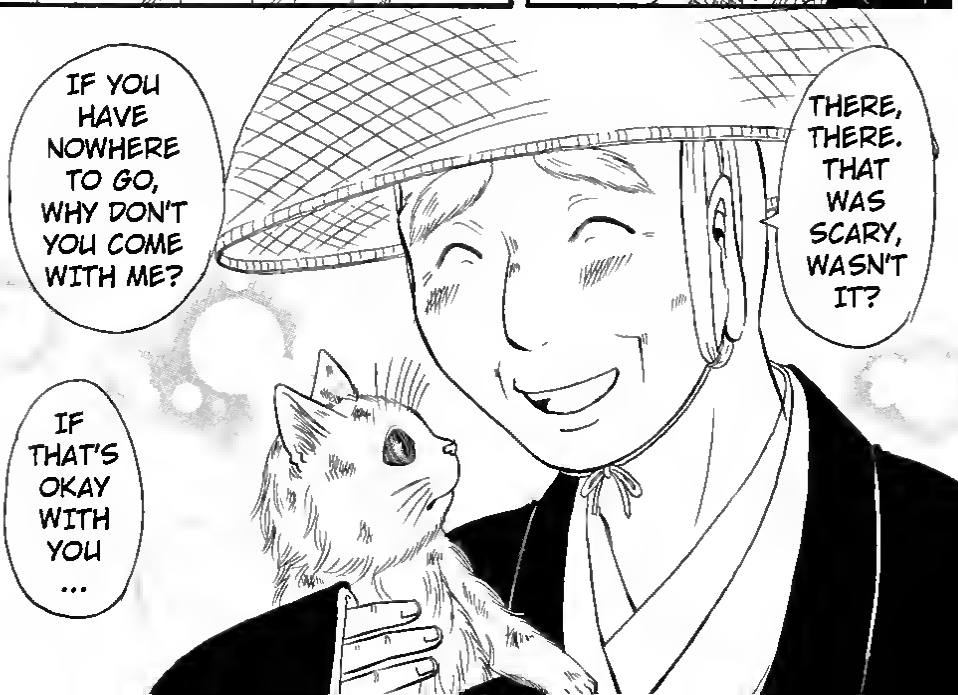
RREEEOOOW!!
HO HO !?

HISSSSS!!
A CAT WITH ONE BLUE EYE AND LONG FUR IS EERIE!
IT'S THE SAME AS IF YOU WERE LOST IN THE LAND OF PEOPLE WITH ONE EYE AND BEING KILLED WITHOUT QUESTION JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE TWO EYES!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, DISCRIMINATING AGAINST IT BECAUSE ITS FUR IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT?
MASTER KEIAN, THERE IS NO "LAND OF PEOPLE WITH ONE EYE" ....
ERK!
YOU IDIOTS !!

KATSU = A WORD USED BY ZEN MONKS WHEN SCOLDING OTHERS



EH? IS THAT SO?
GOOD GRIEF... IF YOU WENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, THERE ARE LOTS OF CATS LIKE THIS!
IT PROBABLY CAME HERE ON A SHIP FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
HISS!



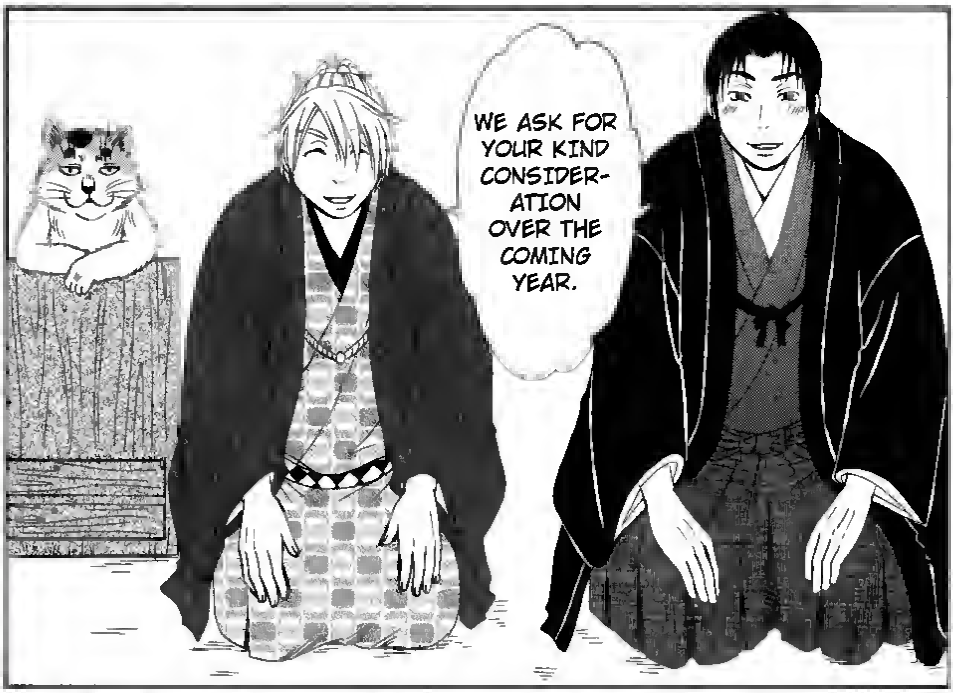
猫絵十兵衛
御伽草紙
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし
はなだいろ LIGHT INDIGO CAT
縹色の猫の巻
LET'S LIVE TOGETHER.
IT'S A PROMISE.
IT'S A MONK AND A CAT!

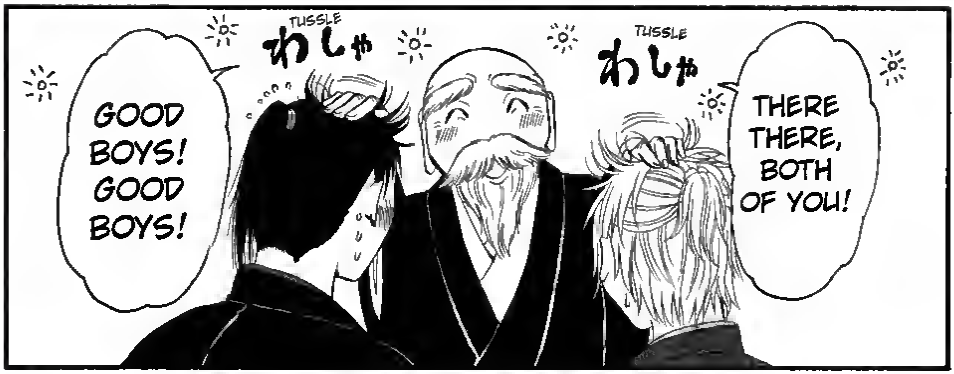
INDIGO ...!
INDIGO ...!
HO HO!
WHERE COULD HE BE? IT'S MEAL TIME!
OH
HE'S OVER THERE ...

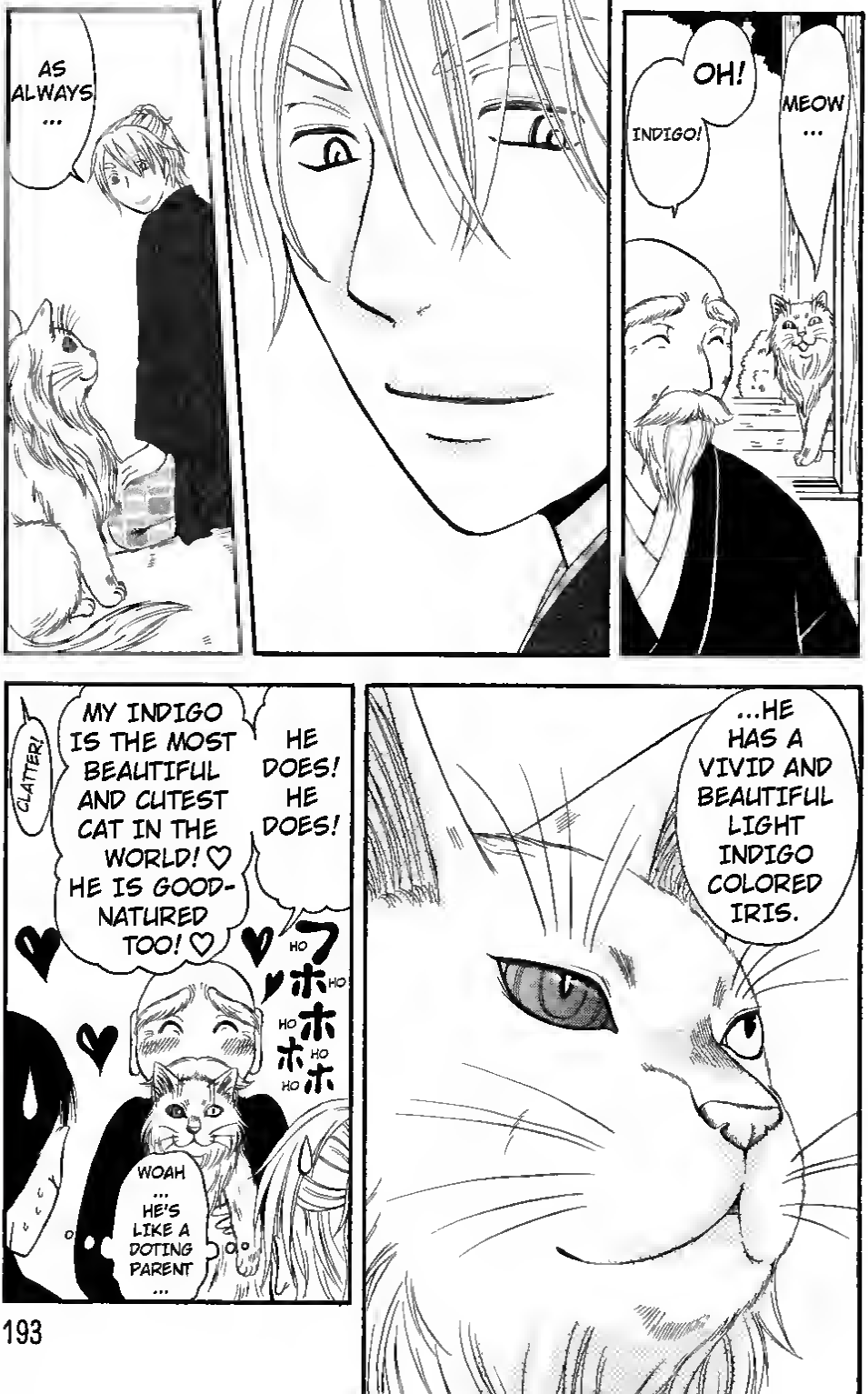
MR. INDIGO!
MR. INDIGO!
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US?
WE'RE GOING TO ISE SHRINE.
I'M NOT GOING.

I SEE ...
OKAY THEN.
SOMETHING IMPORTANT WILL BE TAKING PLACE SOON.
I WILL STAY WITH MONK KEIAN.
MASTER KEIAN! WE HAVE VISITORS!
PITTER PATTER ぱたぱた
HO HO HO HO!
HO HO!
SEE YOU.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
WE CAME TO OFFER OUR NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS!
HO HO HO!
アホホ…
OH, IT'S YASABUROU AND JUBEI.

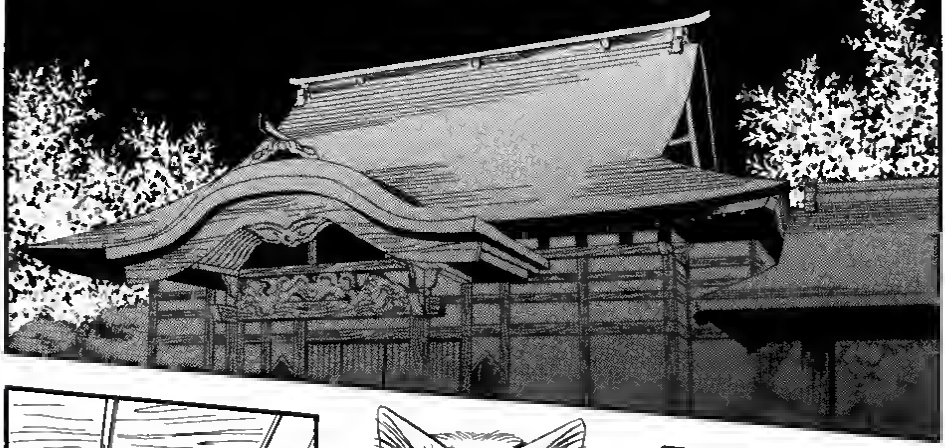

WE ASK FOR YOUR KIND CONSIDER-ATION OVER THE COMING YEAR.


TUSSLE
わしゃ
TUSSLE
わしゃ
GOOD BOYS! GOOD BOYS!
THERE THERE, BOTH OF YOU!


AS ALWAYS ...
OH!
INDIGO!
MEOW ...
...HE HAS A VIVID AND BEAUTIFUL LIGHT INDIGO COLORED IRIS.
CLATTER!
MY INDIGO IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND CUTEST CAT IN THE WORLD! ♡ HE IS GOOD-NATURED TOO! ♡
HE DOES! HE DOES!
フホホホホホ
WOAH ... HE'S LIKE A DOTING PARENT ...

HEY!
IS THAT A MOUSE?
SCURRY!
BAM!
TAP
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF NOISES LATELY.
INDIGO IS AN EXPERT AT CATCHING MICE, SO I DON'T THINK SO.
MASTER KEIAN, TAKE THESE ...
MOUSE DETERRING CAT PICTURES?
CAT PAINTER JUBEI
MOUSE DETERRING CAT PICTURE
SQUEEZE
SLIDE!
IT'S A BIT IMPROPER FOR BUDDHIST TEMPLES BUT IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, PLEASE STICK THESE IN THE PLACES WHERE YOU HEAR THOSE SOUNDS AND IN YOUR SLEEPING QUARTERS.
IT'S NOT IMPROPER AT ALL! FAR FROM IT!

I WILL MAKE USE OF THEM, WITH THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE.
SURE.
WELL THEN, YOU TWO.
AS A WAY OF THANKS, HOW ABOUT THESE DELICIOUS, TREASURED TEA CAKES?
はは
HA HA HA! YES, PLEASE!



SCURRY!

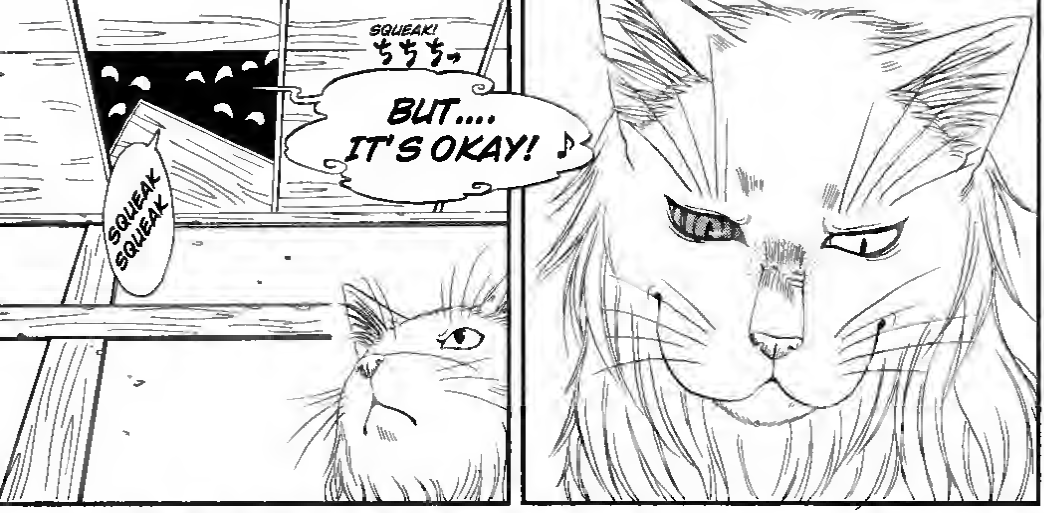
TAP TAP TAP

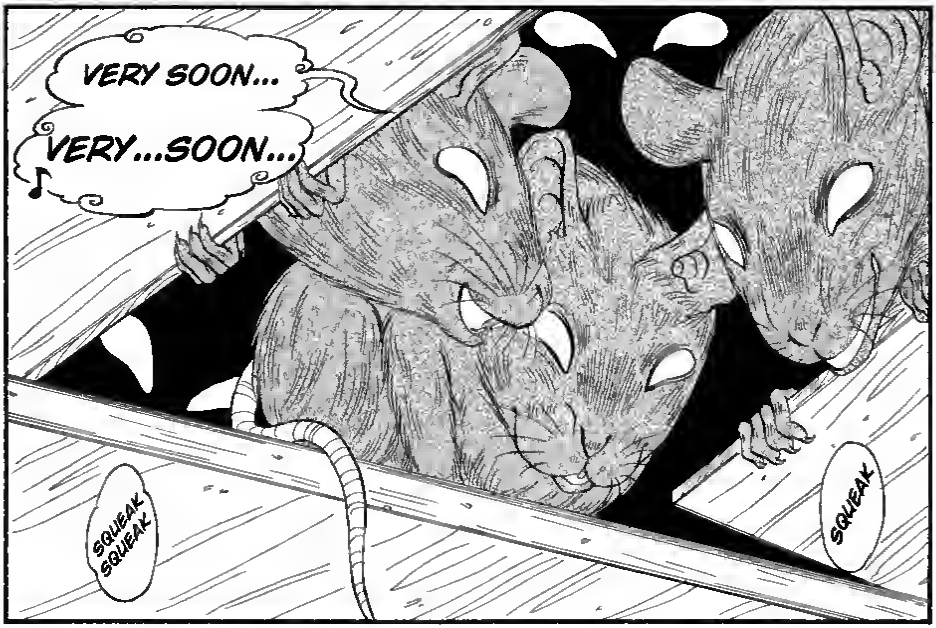
WHAAAAT!? WE CAN'T GET THROUGH!

SCURRY!

CAT PAINTER JUBEI

MOUSE DETERRING CAT PICTURE

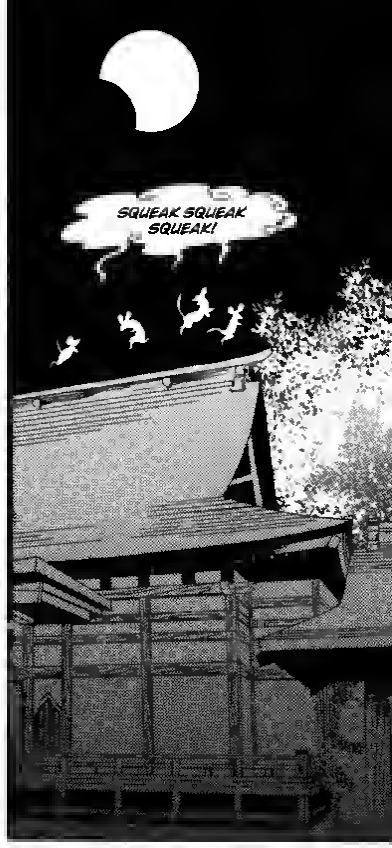

SQUEAK!
ちちち
BUT....
IT'S OKAY! ♪
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

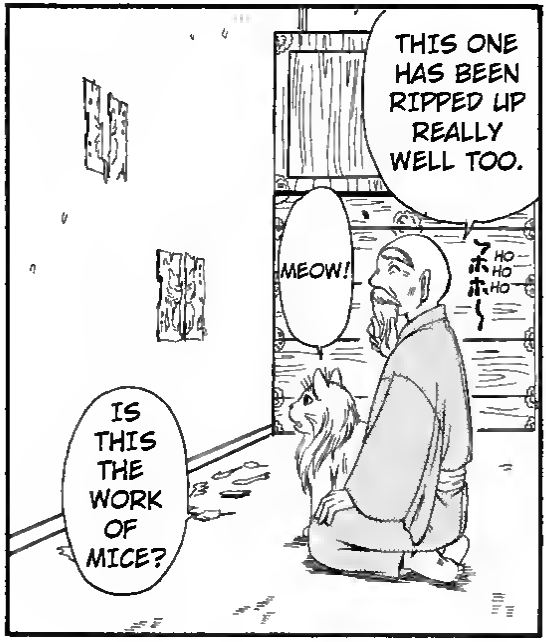

VERY SOON...
VERY...SOON...
♪
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

VERY SOON!
♪
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!

HO HO!

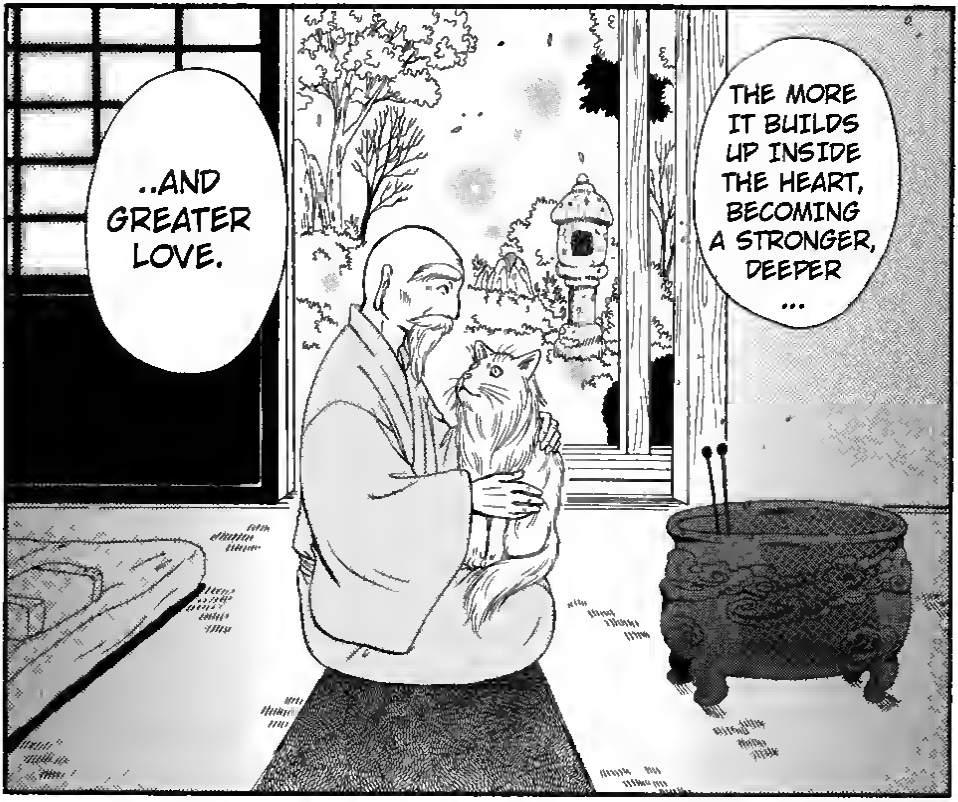

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK!


THIS ONE HAS BEEN RIPPED UP REALLY WELL TOO.
ホホホ〜
HO HO HO
MEOW!
IS THIS THE WORK OF MICE?

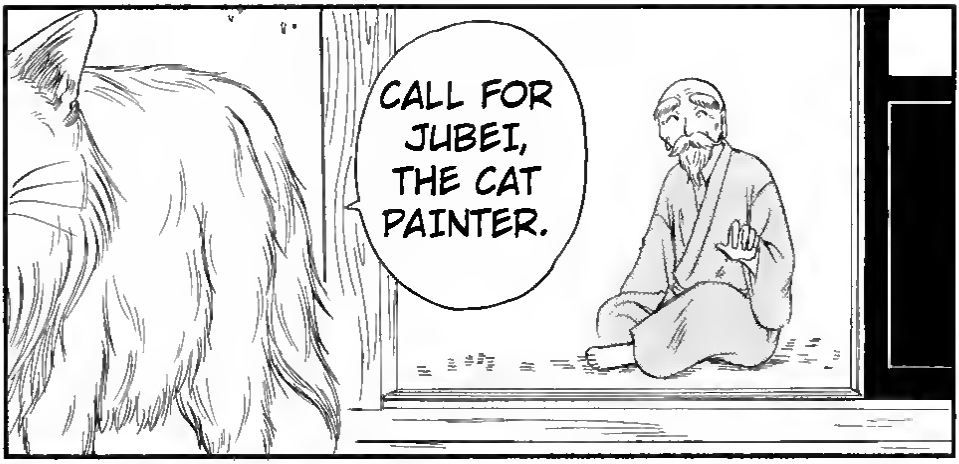
MOUSE DETERRING CAT PICTURE
鼠除猫絵
猫絵十兵衛図
CAT PAINTER JUBEI

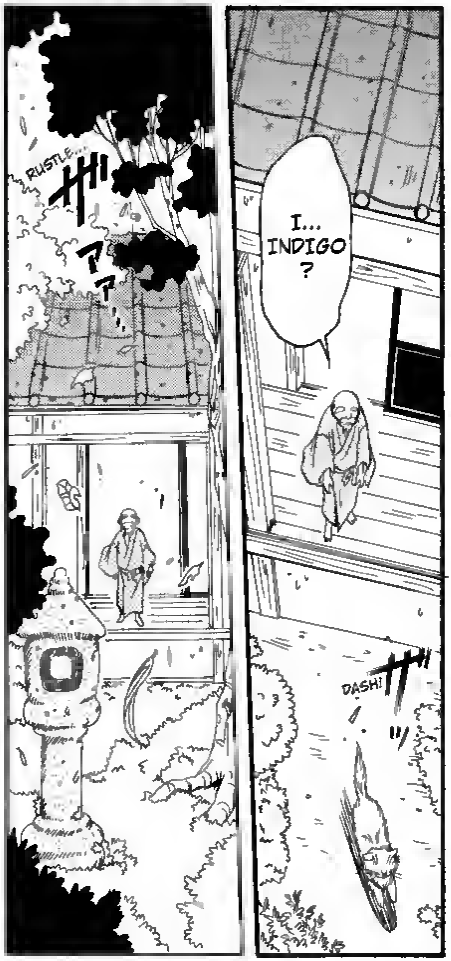
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE I BEEN LIVING WITH YOU?
BY THE WAY ...
わしゃ TUSSLE
TUSSLE わしゃ
COME HERE!
HO HO HO! DON'T MAKE SUCH A FACE!

THE MORE YEARS THAT PASS ...
THE FEELING KNOWN AS "LOVE" ...
I HAVE ...
REALIZED SOMETHING SINCE MEETING YOU, INDIGO ...


..AND GREATER LOVE.
THE MORE IT BUILDS UP INSIDE THE HEART, BECOMING A STRONGER, DEEPER ...

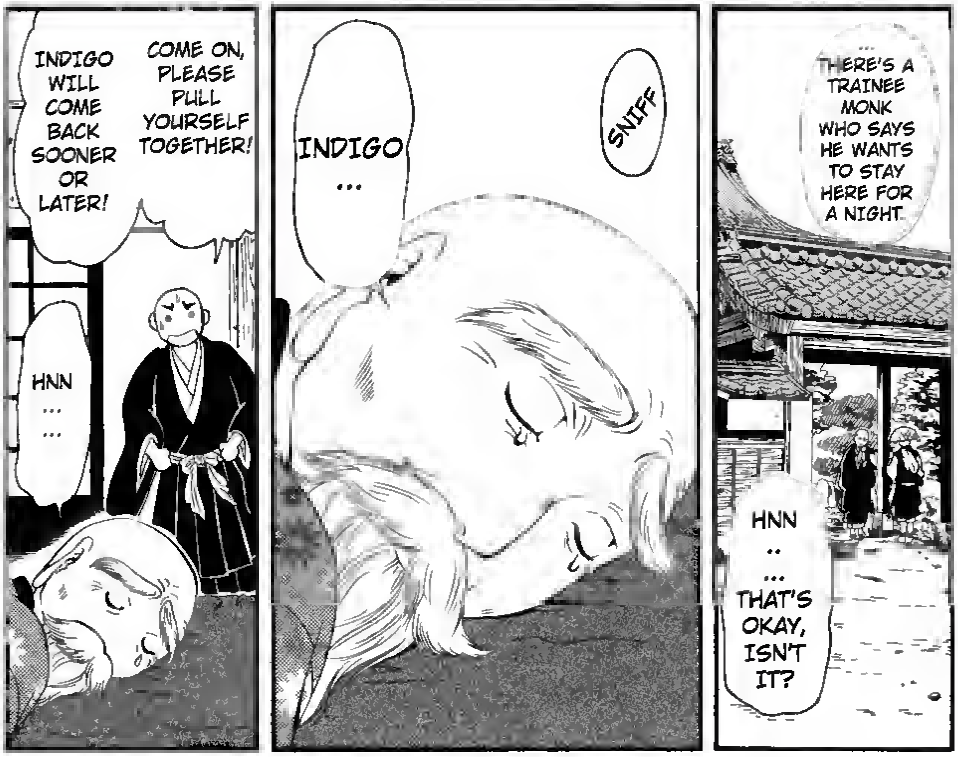
MONK KEIAN ...
INDIGO ?
SHUP!
I, TOO, STILL NEED MORE TRAINING.
HO HO HO!

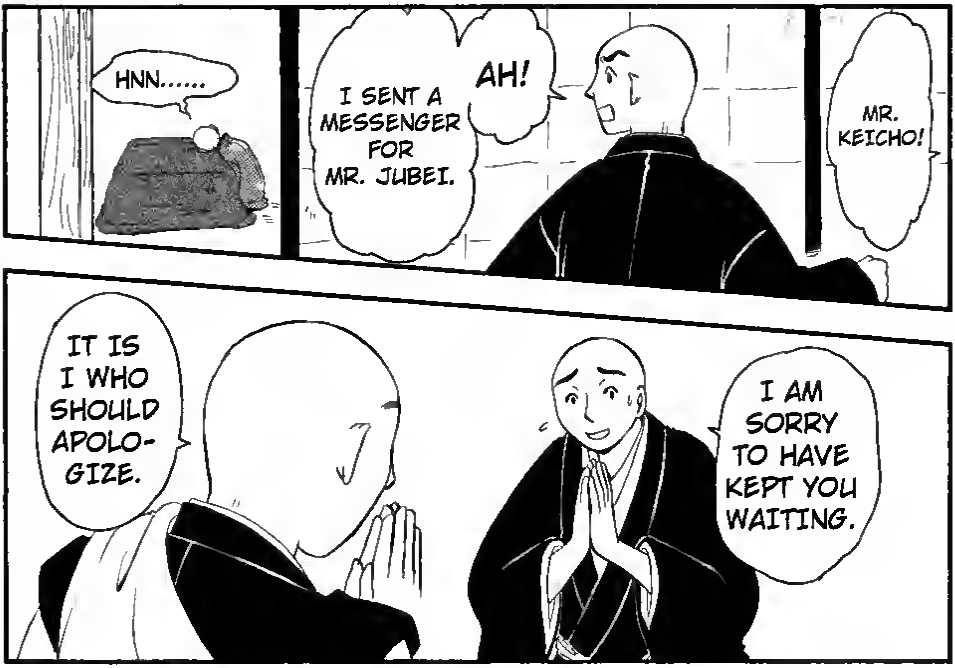

CALL FOR JUBEI, THE CAT PAINTER.

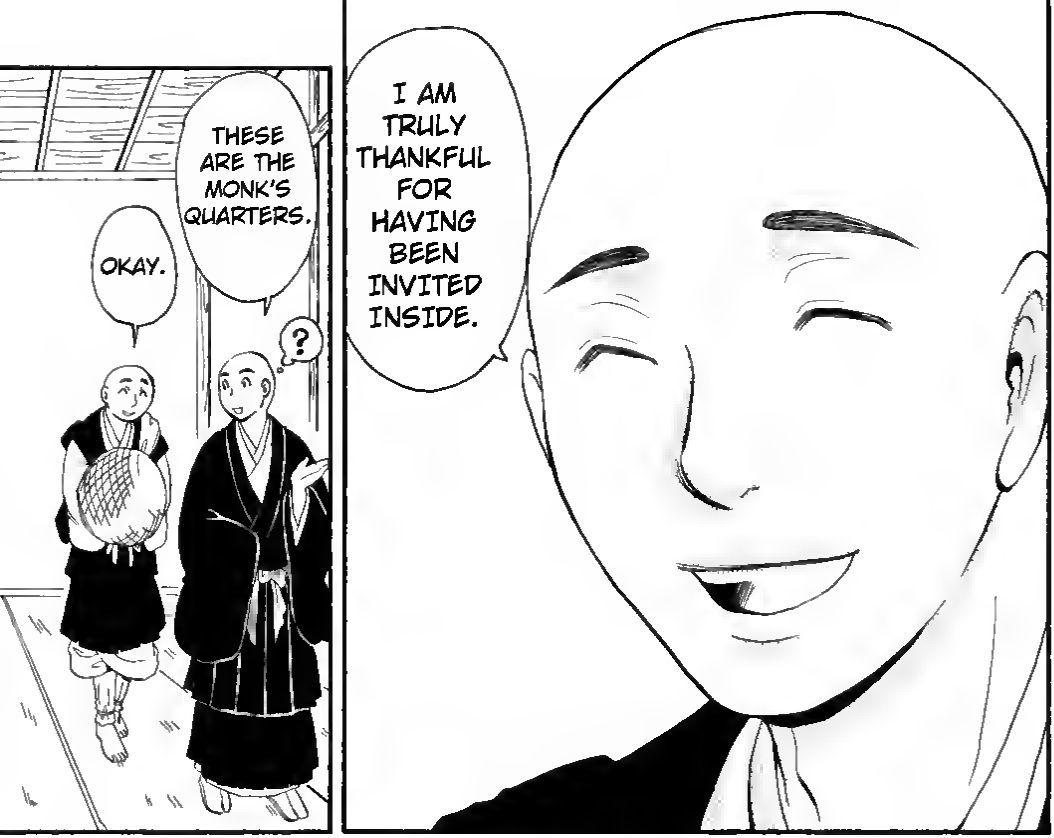

RUSTL...
I... INDIGO ?
DASH!

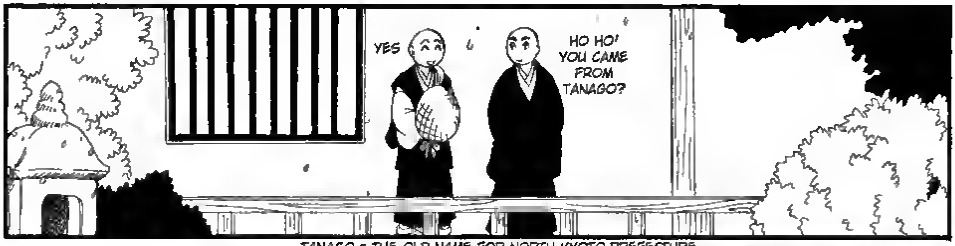
TELL HIM I CAN'T DO THIS BY MYSELF.

JINGLE
HA HA HA HA
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE
MASTER KEIAN!
HNN ... ...
SOMEONE'S HERE TO GIVE A NEW YEAR'S GREETING!
HNN ... ... I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.
AND ALSO, IN FRONT OF THE GATE...

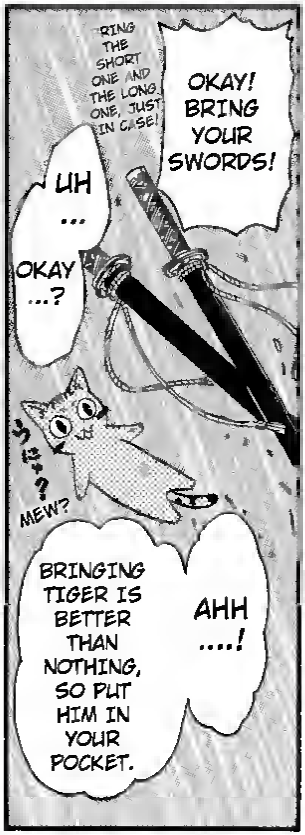

COME ON, PLEASE PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
INDIGO WILL COME BACK SOONER OR LATER!
HNN ... ...
INDIGO ...
SNIFF
... THERE'S A TRAINEE MONK WHO SAYS HE WANTS TO STAY HERE FOR A NIGHT.
HNN .. ... THAT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT?


HNN.....
I SENT A MESSENGER FOR MR. JUBEI.
AH!
MR. KEICHO!
IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE.
I AM SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.





TANAGO = THE OLD NAME FOR NORTH KYOTO PREFECTURE

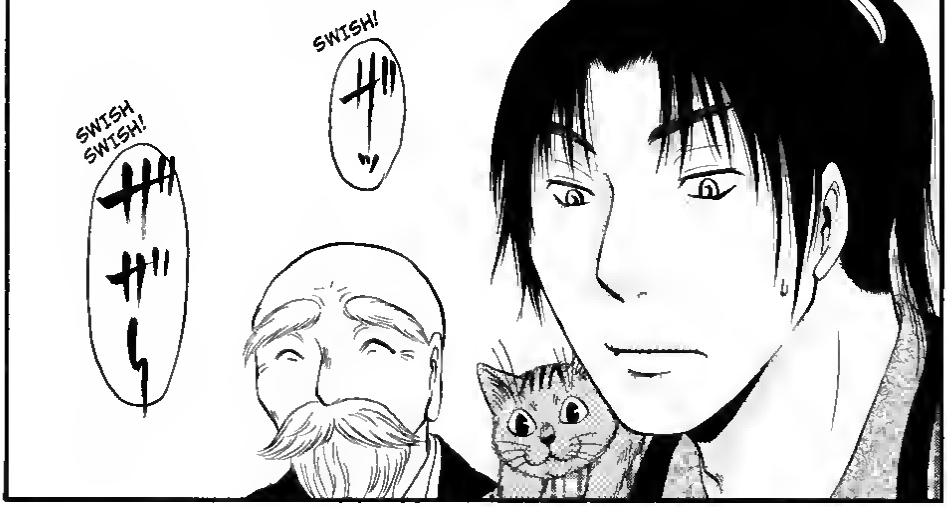

OKAY! BRING YOUR SWORDS!
BRING THE SHORT ONE AND THE LONG ONE, JUST IN CASE!
UH ...
OKAY ...?
MEW?
AHH ....!
BRINGING TIGER IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, SO PUT HIM IN YOUR POCKET.

HUH ...
EH ...
MEW!

AT LEAST LET ME GET CHANGED!
YEAH, YEAH! YOU'RE MANLY ENOUGH ALREADY! LET'S HURRY!
GEEZ ...

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!
HUH!? I'M STILL IN MY BED-CLOTHES!

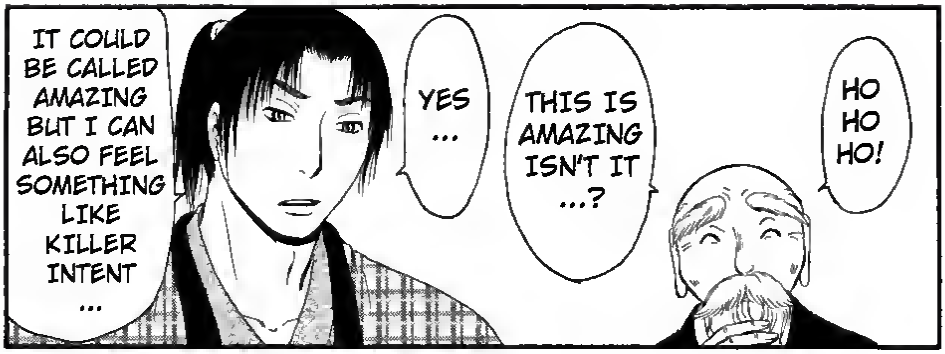
SPLAT!
SPLASH!
SWOOOOOOSH!


SWISH!
SWISH SWISH!

YEAH, IT'S THE CAT SAGE OF NITA PASS.
I'M SO HOT..
WHEW
OH! THAT'S SUPERB!
CLAP
CLAP
THAT'S ... COULD IT BE ...?

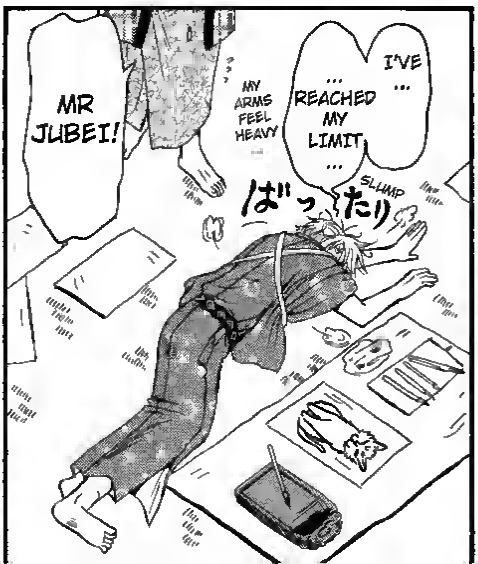
AS EXPECTED, THE TEMPLE HAD A LOT OF PAPER, WHICH WAS A BIG HELP.
フホ HO HO!
YES! USE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
AHAHAHA! EVEN UNRELIABLE GUYS LIKE THAT ARE SAGES, AFTER ALL.
あはは
HMPH!
WELL, SINCE YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT ...
IT LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK... SHOULD I CALL FOR THE JUNIOR MONKS?
NO,
I'D REALLY LIKE TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.
MEW!
MR NISHI-URA, THE INK?
OKAY! ONE MOMENT!
SCRAPE
しゃこ
SCRAPE

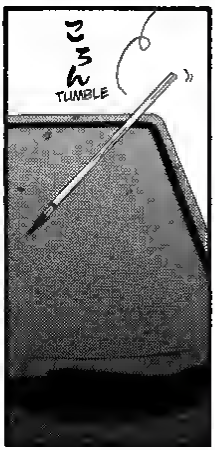
RUSTLE
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

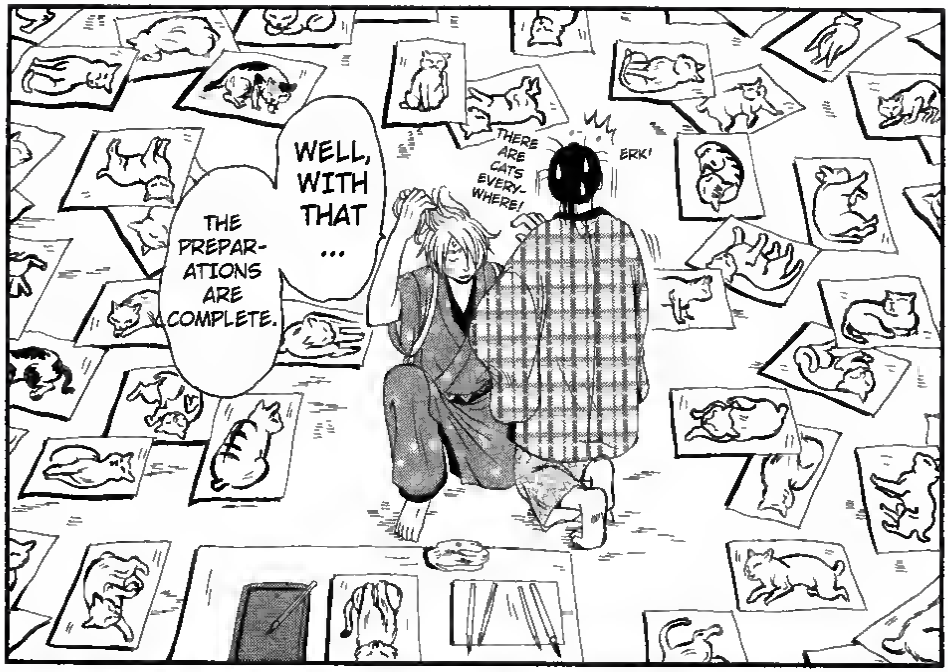

IT COULD BE CALLED AMAZING BUT I CAN ALSO FEEL SOMETHING LIKE KILLER INTENT ...
YES ...
THIS IS AMAZING ISN'T IT ...?
HO HO HO!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN MR. JUBEI LIKE THIS.

AHHH... DON'T SHAKE ME! DON'T SHAKE ME!
PLEASE, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
SHAKE ゆっさ
I FEEL SICK!
SHAKE ゆっさ


MR JUBEI!
MY ARMS FEEL HEAVY
I'VE ... REACHED MY LIMIT ...
SLUMP ばったり


ころん TUMBLE


THE PREPAR-ATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
WELL, WITH THAT ...
THERE ARE CATS EVERY-WHERE!
ERK!

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK
CREAK

HMM?
MASTER KEIAN
MASTER KEIAN
HO HO!
AND WHAT IS THAT?
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
YES.
ARE YOU ... THE TRAINEE MONK?
SLIDE
I INSIST THAT ...
SHIFT
WISE AND FAMED MASTER KEIAN ...
SHIFT

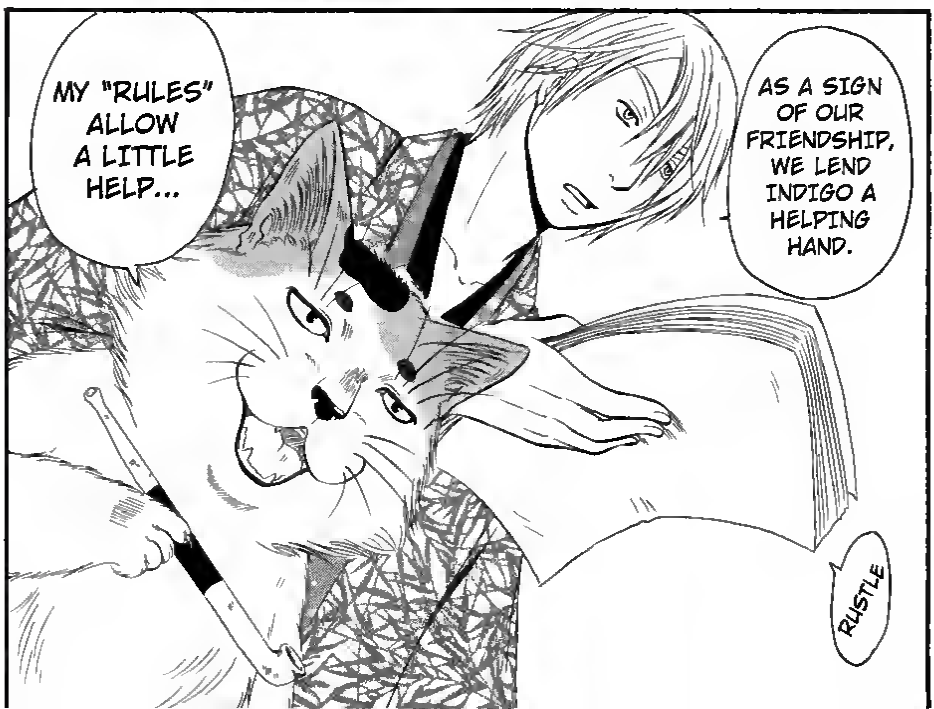
SQUEAK!
YOU LET ME TASTE YOU!
SHIFT
I... INSIST ... THAT ...
SHIFT!
IF YOU ATE A DRIED UP OLD THING LIKE ME, YOU'D JUST GET A STOMACH-ACHE!
HO HO HO!

YOU ARE VERY MODEST.
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
NOT AT ALL.
KEIAN WOULD BE WASTED ON A RAT LIKE YOU.
YOU SHOULD GO AND CATCH SOME MILLET OR SOMETHING.
GRAAAH!!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
CHOMP!
HO HO!

YOU DECEIVED ME, INDIGO!
STEP
WHERE IS THE MONK!?
HEH!?
YOU ARE A FOOL, MONSTER RAT!
MURMUR
MURMUR
DO YOU THINK I WOULD TELL YOU?

ARE YOU CALM, YASA-BUROU?
WITH ANYTHING BUT CATS!
"SAID FIRMLY!"
MEW!
SO, IT HAS BEGUN.
AGH!
BAAAAM!
YES, YES.

JUBEI
NITA
WHO ARE YOU?
CRASH!

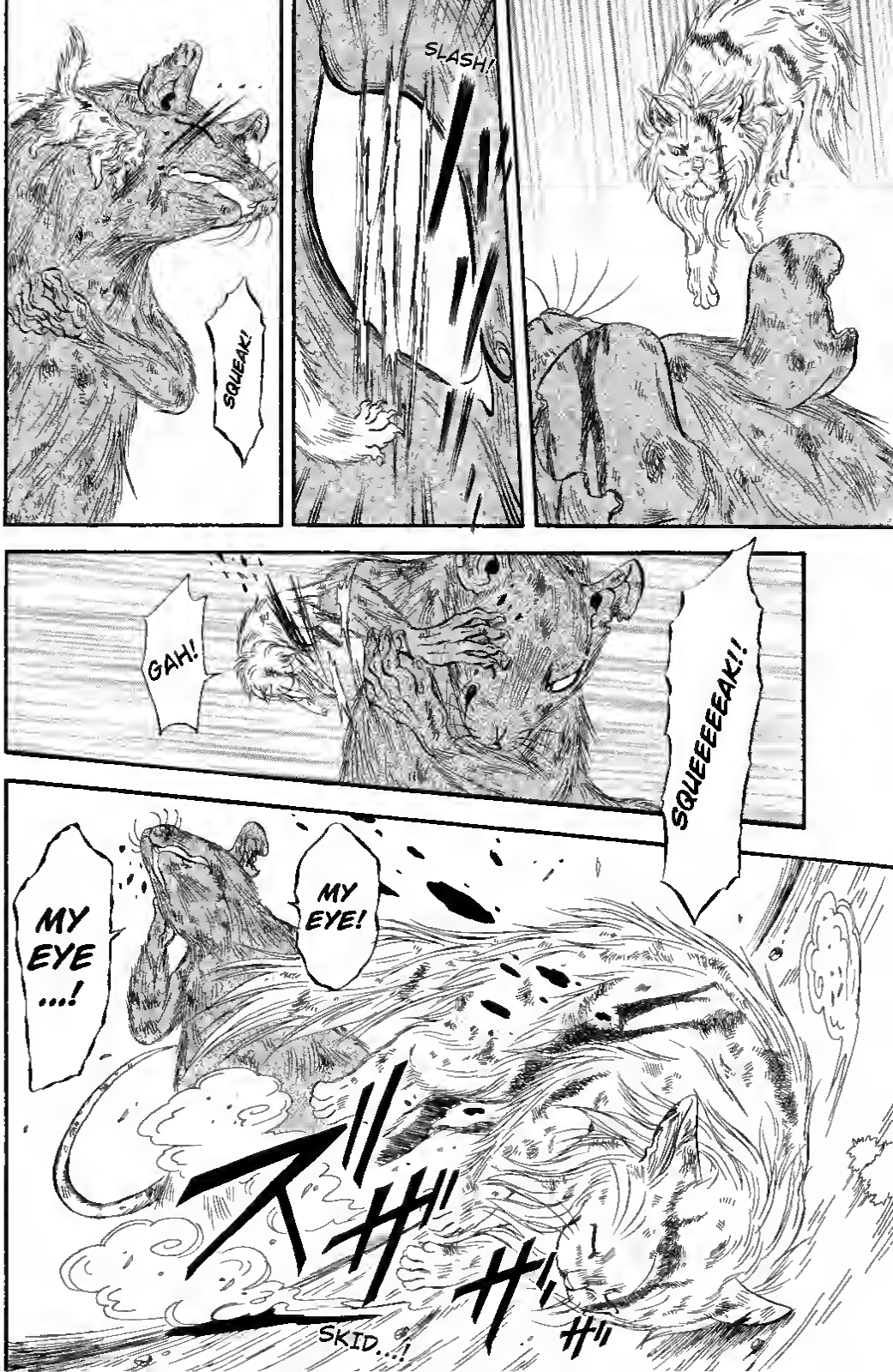

MY "RULES" ALLOW A LITTLE HELP...
AS A SIGN OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, WE LEND INDIGO A HELPING HAND.
RUSTLE

PAH!
SHOOOM
BLINK
BLINK!
BLINK
BLINK
WHOOOOSH!!

SQUEAK!
RUSTLE
SQUEAK!!
CHOMP!
CHOMP!
WROOOW!!
RRAAAOOOW!!!
RAOOOOW!!

GRR RRR
HISSS!
HISSSS!
SWOOSH
MRAOW!
GRR RRR
SWOOSH!

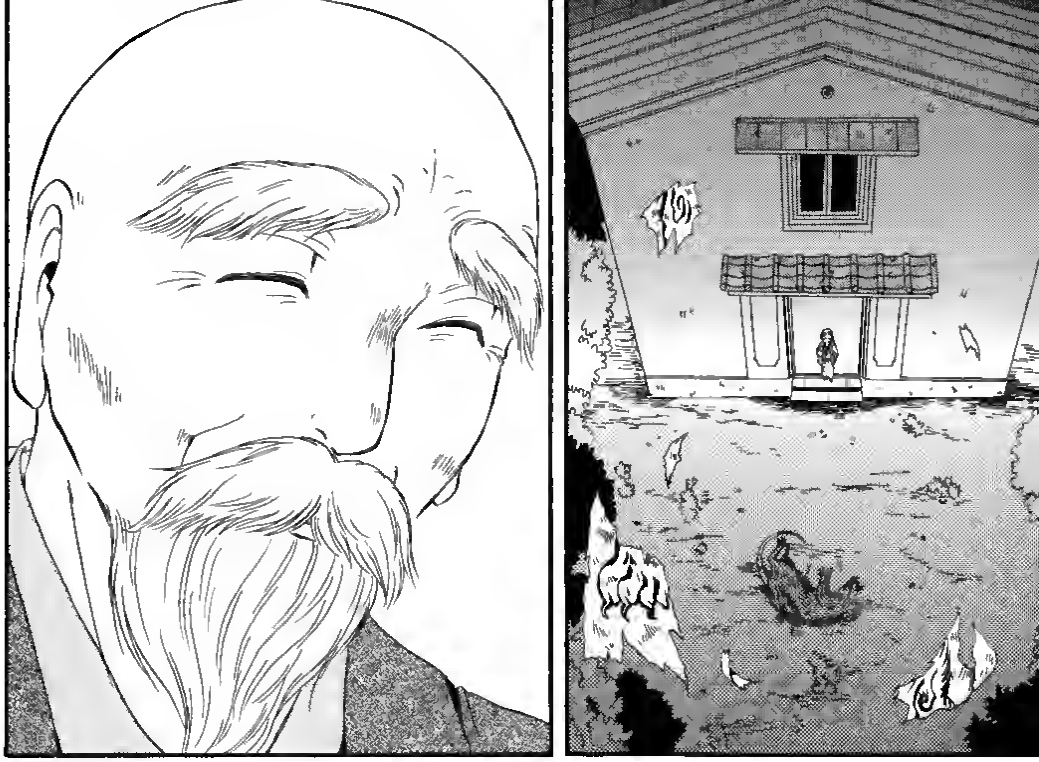
SQUEEEAK!!
GAAAH!!
RUSTLE
SQUEAK!
RAOOW!!
RUSTLE
RAOOW!!
はははは
HA HA HA HA
YOU'VE BEEN TORN TO PIECES, INDIGO.
SO HAVE YOU.
HUFF ハァ
ハァ PUFF
DRIP
DRIP
"TENSES"


SQUEAK!
SLASH!
GAH!
SQUEEEEEAK!!
MY EYE...!
MY EYE!
SKID...!

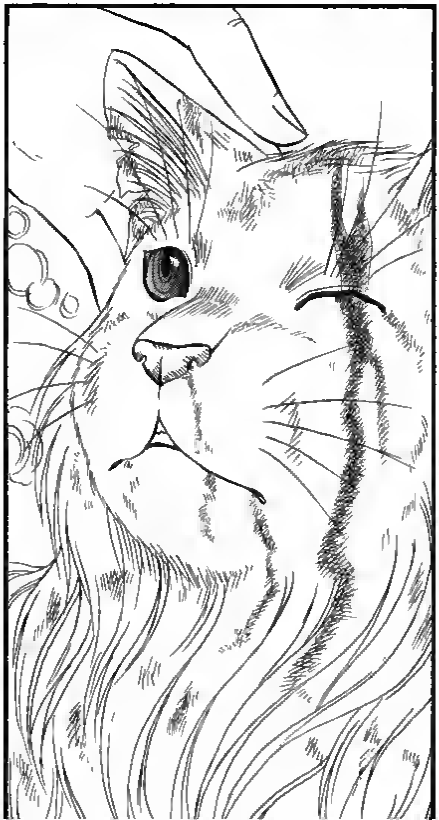
MONK KEIAN!
WATCH, INDIGO.
I CAN SMELL THE MONK! I CAN SMELL HIM!
HA HA HA HA
OH ...
SNIFF
BECAUSE JUBEI MADE THAT WITH ALL OF HIS MIGHT.
PAAAH!!

SWOOOSH...
GRR RRR RRR RRR ...
WHOOOSH!
SQUEAK!!
RRRAAA-OOOW!!

ドオオオン
BOOOOOM!!!
MASTER KEIAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
*WALKS STRAIGHT PAST
YOU MUST ALL STAY IN HERE.
MEW!
しSSHHH....ん
HO HO!
MEW?
TREMBLE!
ビリビリビリ
SHAKE
SHAKE
WAAH!
SHAKE



AS EXPECTED, MY INDIGO. YOU ARE THE FINEST CAT IN THE WORLD.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL.



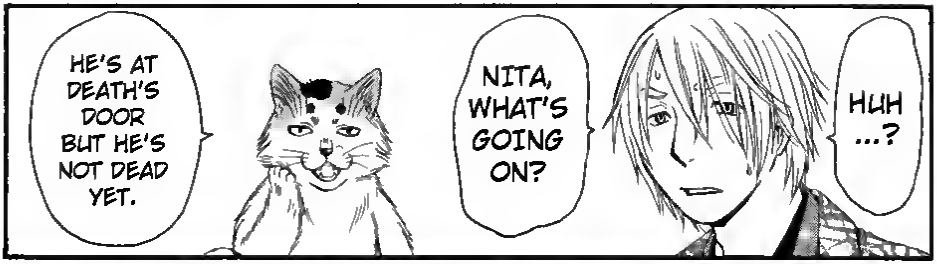
INDIGO
.....

YOU'RE AVOIDING THE QUESTION ...
YOU SLY OLD DOG ...
HA!
...AREN'T YOU ANGRY, MONK KEIAN ...?
ABOUT WHAT? THAT YOU'VE BEEN SECRETLY EATING FOOD FROM THE KITCHEN?
HO HO HO
THAT I COULDN'T KEEP THE PROMISE ...
THAT WE WOULD ALWAYS STAY TOGETHER ...

HO HO HO!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IF OUR HEARTS ARE TOGETHER, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
OUR HEARTS ARE FREE.
WHERE-EVER YOU ARE ...

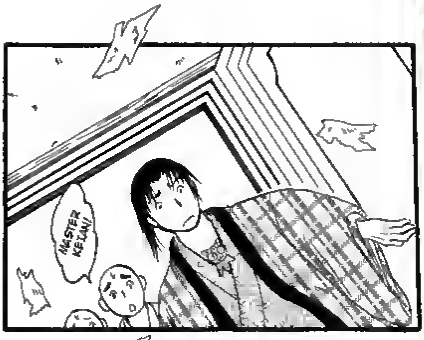
INDIGO
.....
OUR HEARTS WILL BE LINKED
...
TAP

わら
BUSTLE
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
WE WILL.
YES
AN-YA?
LANTERN CAT
AN-YA = DARK NIGHT

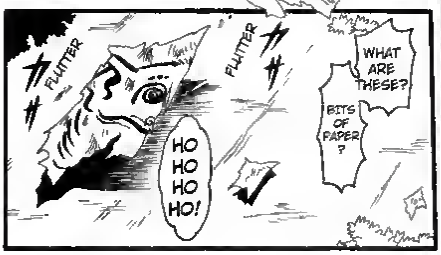

HE'S AT DEATH'S DOOR BUT HE'S NOT DEAD YET.
NITA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH ...?

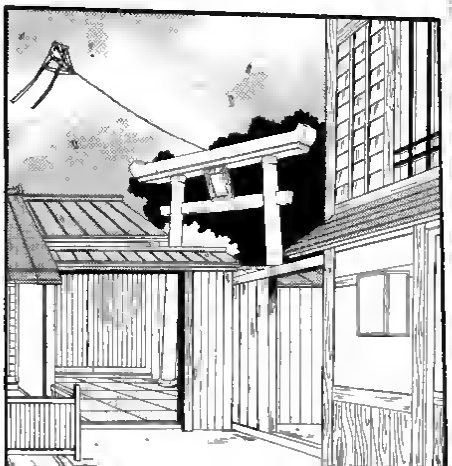
IT'S A LONG SHOT, THOUGH.
THE KING OF CATS MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING, SO I CALLED FOR THE CATS OF CAT MOUNTAIN.

HO HO HO HO!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, OLD MAN?
YOU CAN NEVER MEET AGAIN.
EVEN IF HIS LIFE IS SAVED, HIS TRUE FORM HAS BEEN REVEALED, SO HE CAN NEVER COME BACK.
HO HO HO!
HO HO!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
フホッ
HO HO!
IT'S FINE ...
... LIKE THIS.


MASTER KEIKAKU!

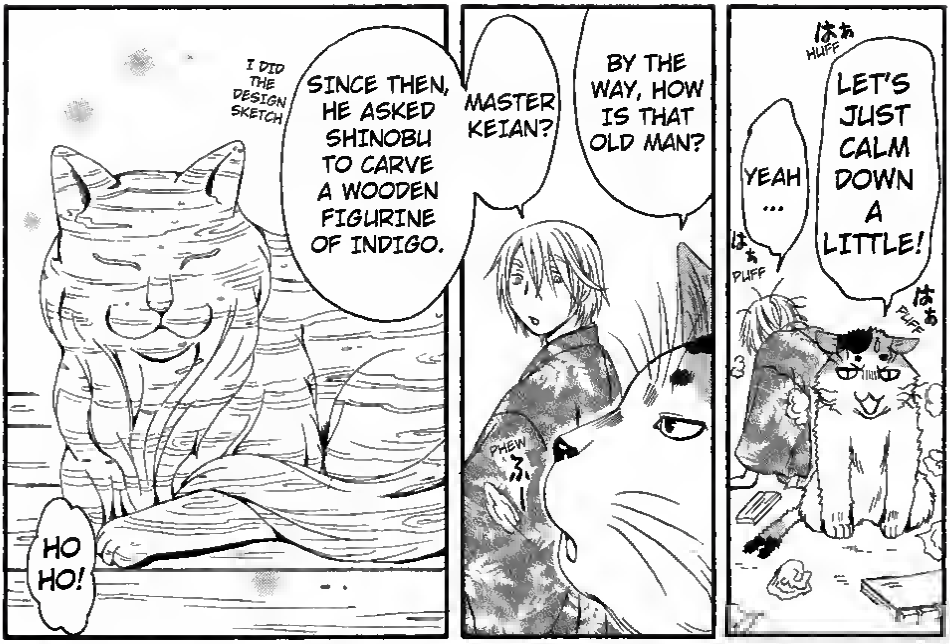
AARGH! A MONSTER RAT!
I'M FINE, I'M FINE!
BLOOD? MR JUBEI, ARE YOU HURT?
フホホホ
HO HO HO HO

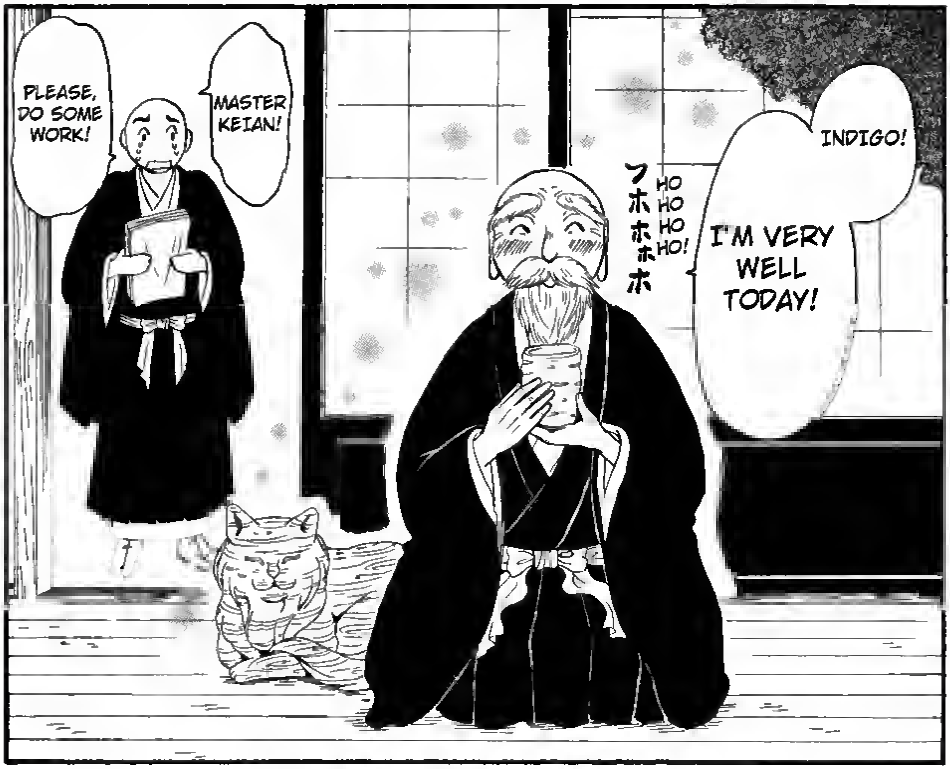

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
HO HO HO HO!
WHAT ARE THESE?
BITS OF PAPER?



EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT BY MY SIDE...
I'M GLAD THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE LINKED UNDER THE SAME SKY...

THIS TIME, WERE YOUR "RULES" OKAY?
SEEMS LIKE YOU DID QUITE A FEW THINGS ...
HEY, NITA.
SIZZLE
YEAH?
AAAH... IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE
にょほほ～ん
MEO-HO HO!
AND IF I LEFT THINGS LIKE THAT ...
ドン
BANG!
ばた
CRASH!
あぢぢ
IT'S HOT!
DON'T BE ROUGH WITH THE FOOD!
THE RICE CAKES ARE HEATED UP, SO I WAS JUST GIVING ONE TO YOU!
WHAT !? HEY!!
... YOU WOULD CRY!
STEAM
AS IF!


I DID THE DESIGN SKETCH
SINCE THEN, HE ASKED SHINOBU TO CARVE A WOODEN FIGURINE OF INDIGO.
HO HO!
MASTER KEIAN?
BY THE WAY, HOW IS THAT OLD MAN?
PHEW ふー
はぁ HUFF
LET'S JUST CALM DOWN A LITTLE!
YEAH ...
はぁ PUFF
はぁ PUFF

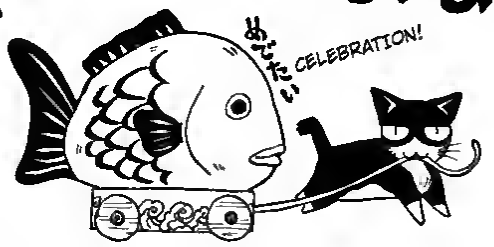


第十二話 完
END OF CHAPTER 12

初出
FIRST APPEARANCE:
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER
猫絵十兵衛 御伽草紙
『ねこぱんち』'07.⑪～'08.⑯
"NEKO PUNCH" 2007 (11) - 2008 (16)

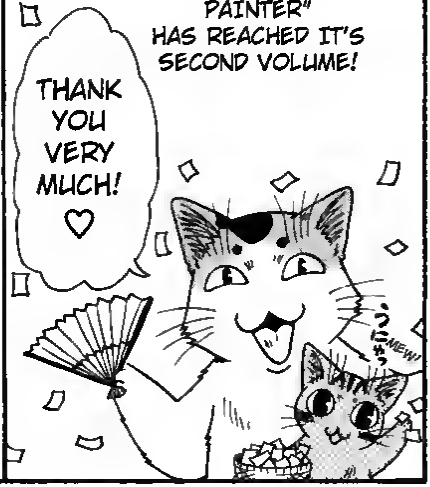
OTHER STORIES

あとのはなし。

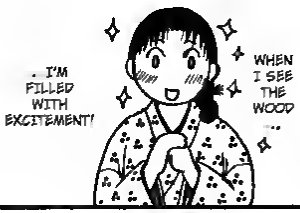


WHEN I TALK ABOUT THINGS I LOVE IN THE EDO PERIOD (OR IS IT A BURNING PASSION?), THERE ARE MANY THINGS I LOVE. AMONG THE THINGS FOR WHICH I HAVE A BURNING PASSION, ARE THE ARTISANS AND THEIR AESTHETIC TASTES! THE DESIGN! THE TECHNIQUE! I GO CRAZY WHEN I SEE THEIR STYLISH NATURE (THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT)! MANY OF THEIR WORKS REMAIN IN SHRINES, BUDDHIST TEMPLES AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

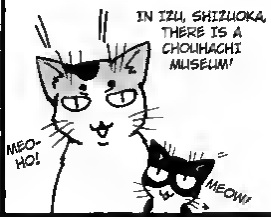
THANKS TO EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, "TALES OF A CAT PAINTER" HAS REACHED IT'S SECOND VOLUME!



SHINOBU TAKES HER NAME FROM A LEGENDARY WOMAN WHO WAS SAID TO BE THE ANCESTOR OF "THE CARPENTER OF HIDA".



ONE WHO WAS MENTIONED IN THE STORY WAS THE SKILLED TROWEL ARTIST, "CHOUHACHI OF IZU". HE WAS A REAL PERSON AND HIS WORKS ARE AMAZING! RATHER THAN A PICTURE, IT IS THREE DIMENSIONAL ART! ♡



THAT'S WHY THEY OFTEN APPEAR IN THE STORY.

LATER ON, INDIGO RETURNS TO HEALTH AND LIVES ON CAT MOUNTAIN. HE'S A COOL GUY WHO DOESN'T TAKE PART IN THE CAT DANCES.

IT WOULD BE GOOD IF I COULD SEE THE MONK AGAIN ONE DAY

.....

MEOW!

MEOW!

MEOW!

MEOW!

THE IDEA FOR THE STORY OF INDIGO COMES FROM A FOLK TALE TOO. THE COLOR "LIGHT INDIGO", WHICH IS SAID TO BE THE COLOR OF A FLOWER. IT IS A PRETTY AND LIGHTER FORM OF INDIGO BLUE.

THE IDEA FOR A STORY ABOUT CAT PICTURES COMES FROM FOLK TALES FROM MANY PLACES AND PERIODS OF HISTORY.

BOOK. STRANGE STORIES

WOW...

WHEN I FIND A BOOK OF FOLK TALES FROM MY TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

I FEEL OVERJOYED, LIKE I'VE FOUND TREASURE!

JUST A LOVER OF FOLK TALES!

THE STORY OF THE CAT STONE IS TRUE. IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE BORROW THE STONE AND THEN TAKE IT BACK TO THE SHRINE.

HEH! I'M NOT JUST CUTE, YOU KNOW!

MEOW!

CHIBI MIGHT BE TINY AND CUTE BUT HE'S A CAT GOD, PROTECTING THE AREA AROUND CAT STREET.

KING! ARE YOU LISTENING!?

YES...

SHIMA, AS A KING OF CATS, MUST BE GETTING LESSONS ON HOW TO BEHAVE AS A KING HAMMERED INTO HIM BY AN-YA (LOL).

LET'S MEET AGAIN!

MEOW! SEE YOU!

OKAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING!

Thanks,

EVERYONE IN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT MADOKA, MIMOZO, GON, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY THANK YOU ALWAYS!

おしまい
THE END

コミック223

【ねこぱんちコミックス】

猫絵十兵衛〜御伽草紙〜㈡

NEKOPANCHI COMICS

平成21年9月28日　初版発行　　平成22年6月15日　第3刷発行

著者　永尾まる
©NAGAO MARU 2008
発行者　矢沢哲夫
印刷所　三晃印刷株式会社
製本所　星野製本株式会社

カバーデザイン　L.S.D. シマダヒデアキ
編集担当　松澤良信

発行所　株式会社 少年画報社
〒101-8388　東京都千代田区三崎町3-3-12
電話／東京03(3262)3501　振替／00150-2-20260

落本には充分注意しておりますが、落丁・乱丁(本のページの抜け落ちや順序の間違い)や印刷不良の場合は、ご購入になられた書店・小売店名をご記入のうえ、小社『販売部』宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替えいたします。但し、店頭事放本や古書店でご購入の本は小社ではお取り替えできません。
出版物の無断複写(コピー)は著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。また、本書を無断で複製・上映・上演・放送・データ通信する事はかたくお断りいたします。

Printed in Japan

ご注意……作品中の猫の飼育法やエサの与え方は、
一般的に正しいものとは限りません。

ISBN978-4-7859-3223-7